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see magazine #5: Edmonton's issues, arts and entertainment weekly.

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line of publications. Subscriptions are welcome, either by post, fax, e-mail

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see magazine is located at:

#200, 1025 Jasper Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1A8

TEL (780) 430-9003

FAX (780) 432-1102

e-mail: info@see.greatwest.ca

Publication Mail Agreement No. 40099528

Return Undeliverable Canadian Address To: Information Dept.

50 Churchill Avenue, St. Albert, Alberta, T6W 5A6

e-mail: mail@tatteredart.com

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FANTASTIC COMEDY

"REALLY UNSURE FOR FUTURE" - SAVAGE LOVE | PAGE 38

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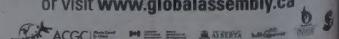
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TRICKY GERVais
Edmonton's most versatile (and most crazy-eyed) young actor, Jesse Gervais, talks about stepping into Keanu Reeves' shoes, pretending to have syphilis, and acting in "the worst play in the universe."

COVER PHOTO BY IAN JACKSON

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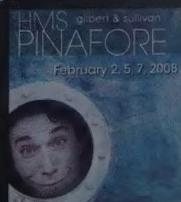
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film | **THOUGHTFUL TUESDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES** Steeps Tea Lounge's doc series is always worth a look. This week: *Eating Vegetarians of Alberta* will be on hand to talk about, well, what do you think?

JANUARY 30

music | **SILVERSTEIN** With Protest the Hero, Ill Scarlet and The Devil Wears Prada. And if you can't catch them tonight, they also play on the 31 at the Starlite Room.

JANUARY 31

film/dance | **MZD FAVA** LABA Mile Zero Dance teams with local filmmakers to present dances conceptualized for the screen. Zeidler Hall, Citadel Complex

FEBRUARY 1

words | **CREATIVE WORKS READINGS** Vancouver-based Giller longlisted author Sharon English (author of *Uncomfortably Numb* and *Zero Gravity*). At the U of A's Humanities Centre.

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music | **TELE** With Needles to Vinyl, Vox, Humana. Winnipeg's biggest buzz-band head west. At the Starlite Room.

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FEBRUARY 4

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FEBRUARY 5

Analysis | **JUNG FORUM LECTURE** "Exploring the Self-Ego Relationship: The Intimate Connection Between Inner and Outer Space and Place." Presumably there will be time for the lecture after the title is read. At the CN Conference Theatre.

FEBRUARY 6

art | **SONIC CUBES** Wood objets d'art by Catherine Bechard and Sabin Hudon. At Latitude 53 gallery. What makes them sonic? That's for you to figure out.

FEBRUARY 7

clubs | **TRANCE ENERGY** Marrel Woods and Marcus Schosow's tech-trance. Those Europeans just can't stop inventing new sub-genres. At the Empire Ballroom.



Feb 2 Wicked Air! Tele at the Starlite, Feb 2

JAMES HAMILTON | Stepper's Delight | PAGE 28

“

IT'S NO GYMKATA, BUT SEEING AS ROUNDHOUSE KICKS TO THE FACE ARE SO GAUCHE THESE DAYS, HOW SHE MOVE IS A WORTHY SUBSTITUTE. NICE.

CALENDAR

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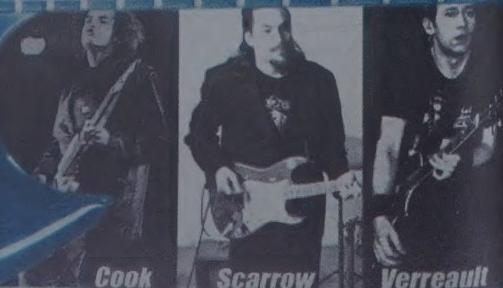
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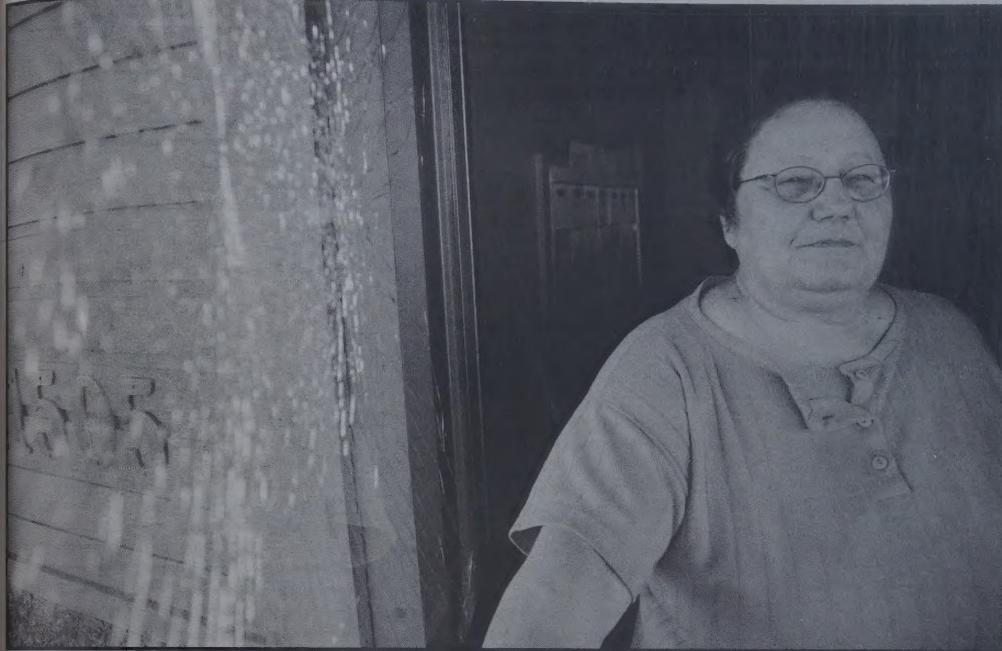
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—EDMONTON RENTER DELIGHT RUSSELL

NEWS - HOUSING CRISIS • BY ANGELA BRUNSCHEOT | 173 words

“More People On The Streets”



Stranded Once Again | Delight Russell says a \$275 rent increase could put her on the streets, despite the rent supplement she receives from the province. PHOTO BY IAN JACKSON

DESPITE RECEIVING GOVERNMENT RENT SUPPLEMENT, AISH RECIPIENT STILL FACES HOMELESSNESS

When Delight Russell received her direct rent supplement from the provincial government in September, the 51-year-old AISH recipient heaved a sigh of relief. She could stay in her apartment, even though she couldn't afford the rent.

Unfortunately, that feeling of security only lasted four months. She has just received notice of a \$275 rent increase, which will take effect in May.

“Where am I ahead?” she asks. “I’m not. I’m back to where I was before I got the rent supplement.”

Russell pays \$575 a month for her one bedroom apartment in Winson Manor, a three-story walk-up on 107th Avenue and 115th Street, near the old Tabernacle church site. Her front door windows are smashed in and Russell has witnessed vandalism in the hallways. Her kitchen shelves lean out from the walls at a precarious angle and her carpets are old. But it’s a roof over her head, she says and she doesn’t want to leave.

On May 1 her rent will be \$850. She currently receives \$320 a month through the rent supplement pro-

gram. She cannot afford to pay the \$275 increase, even if it’s just until September when she can apply to have her rent supplement increased. She’s upset that she may have to leave the apartment and scared she won’t find another place.

Nor is this the first time Russell has faced losing her apartment. Last summer, there was a note posted in the hallway saying the apartment building was being converted to condos. Russell knew she couldn’t afford a down payment on a condo, and when she looked at the rents for other apartments, quickly realized she couldn’t afford those either. That first crisis passed when she received her rent supplement and her apartment was not sold.

Now, with a \$275 rent increase, she’s again afraid she’ll lose her apartment. Ultimately, Russell feels she’s facing homelessness.

“The government can hush this up anyway they want,” she says. “They can say it’s under control, but it’s not. There are going to be more and more people on the streets.”

Robert Storrier, a spokesperson with Municipal Affairs and Housing, says his department is aware that some people are receiving rent increases months before they can get an increase in the direct rent supplement.

The department is investigating the implications of reviewing a subsidy agreement prior to the one year anniversary date,” he says. “At this point, no decisions have been made.”

Until the minister of housing, Ray Danyluk, makes a decision, the local housing organizations that deliver the funds have no choice but to wait a full year before reviewing individual cases.

And it’s very likely Russell will not receive additional help. Barb Sommerfield, manager of affordable housing services with Capital Region Housing Corporation (CRHC) says anyone already receiving a direct rent supplement is a “lower priority” even after the one-year waiting period.

The rent supplement fills the gap between the “market rate” on Russell’s apartment and 30 per cent of her income. Since she already receives help, she is most likely using a smaller proportion of her income for rent than those who do not receive the supplement.

CRHC doesn’t keep statistics on how many people have asked about an increase in their direct rent supplement, but there are roughly 3000 people on the organization’s waiting list for all the different government subsidies.

“Most people haven’t asked,” says Sommerfield. “When they come in and sign [the rent supplement agreement] we are very clear with them. Even when we tell them about the plan, it’s very straight forward that it is a fixed amount.”

Even if Russell does receive the maximum rent supplement allowed, \$550 a month, in a year her landlord can legally increase her rent once again.

Nor was Russell’s situation unexpected. As Storrier says, the government is already looking into how to deal with cases like Russell’s. Last summer, both the opposition parties pointed out that the rent supplement was useless without a cap on rent increases.

Laurie Blakeman, Liberal MLA for Edmonton-Centre, says she’s not surprised that her constituents are still facing hardship in the rental market. High-end condos have dominated construction, and the Tories have refused to institute rent control, a major recommendation of the government’s own housing task force.

“This is a larger social policy issue,” she says. “I really think the government should have put in rent controls.”

NEWS BRIEFS • ANGELA BRUNSCHEOT

GOVERNMENT FUNDING • STUDENT EMPLOYMENT MINIMUM WAGE BLUES

The province announced a 95 cent an hour raise for students working for nonprofits this summer, with base wages going from \$6.05 to \$7 in the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP).

This year the program will fund 3,000 spaces at registered nonprofits, including regional health authorities, community groups, First Nations bands, universities, and colleges.

“They are never going to get anyone to work for \$7 an hour,” says MacEwan student union president Justin Benko. He says a nonprofit’s ability to attract student workers this summer will depend on how much they can offer above and beyond the provincial wage.

Amanda Spearing agrees. The vice-president external of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) students’ union says that although she welcomes any extra incentives for organizations to hire students, she doubts the program will attract apprenticeship students in the skilled trades, which make up much of NAIT’s student body. Some students can make as much as \$65 an hour in Fort McMurray this summer.

“For them to go into the STEP program right now,” she says, “they’d have to accept a wage way below their trade and the hours they are working wouldn’t count for them to go back to school.”

REPORT • HOUSING CRISIS ALBERTA, THE NEW NORMAL

Low-income Albertans are not the only Canadians getting squeezed out of their homes, according to a new report from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

Quality of Life in Canadian Communities: Trends and Issues in Affordable Housing and Homelessness was released last week and paints a bleak picture for the working poor and those receiving government assistance in 22 communities across the country.

According to the report, even in the lowest 25 per cent of the rental market, not one city surveyed by FCM had rents that a single person on government assistance could afford on their own. (Affordable rent was pegged at 30 per cent of the household’s income.)

Statistics Canada data showed 10 per cent of rental housing needs repairs. In the lowest 25 per cent, the average age of the buildings is approaching 50 years.

Unlike Alberta, where the vacancy rate is low across all levels of the rental market, FCM found that nationally the vacancy rates are relatively high in the lower end of the market. Even so, national waiting lists for social housing are still long, which the report says indicates “the private rental market’s inability to reach the most vulnerable households.”

Illegals: Now an Alberta Problem



Under The Table | Foreign workers aren't getting the full scoop on their legal status. ILLUSTRATION BY TON BAGLEY

UNDOCUMENTED FOREIGN WORKERS LEAVE ROTTEN EMPLOYERS AND "DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT"

Describing a situation more familiar to Arizonans than Albertans, local immigrant and labour organizations say Canada's controversial temporary foreign worker program is quietly spawning an increase of undocumented immigrants in the country—and specifically Alberta.

Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) president Gil McGowan says he knows of temporary workers from Mexico and India who have "disappeared into the night" after arriving in Alberta through the federal program and working for rotten employers. "When people hear about

illegal aliens, they usually think of the United States and Mexican daily labourers sneaking over the border," says McGowan. "But more and more this is becoming a Canadian problem, and it's directly linked to the exponential growth of the temporary foreign worker program."

In 2006 (the last year for which official statistics are available), Alberta hosted 22,000 temporary foreign workers—double the amount it had in 2003. Both the federal and provincial governments have touted the program as an important solution to the province's labour shortage. However, the AFL has documented numerous cases where Alberta employers have taken advantage of foreign workers. Unfair wages, substandard working conditions and poor (and

unreasonably expensive) housing are among the many problems the AFL has highlighted. "Because neither the federal and provincial governments have put resources in place to help these people, many of them are simply making the decision to run," says McGowan.

Immigrant organizations in both Calgary and Edmonton confirm that over the past year, they've encountered more undocumented foreign workers. "Those cases are pretty sad situations because they have a lot of needs, but obviously no help," says Mayra Castro, an employment supervisor for the Calgary Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. "They survive working basically under-table jobs... jobs where they can have injuries and there is no protection. [They're in a] very vulnerable position."

The federal government is also aware of anecdotal stories about undocumented immigrants, but it's not a "huge consideration" right now, according to Citizenship and Immigration Canada spokesperson Doug Kellam. "There's always going to be some people who [stay illegally]," he says. "If that's becoming a concern, then that will be something that would come into our attention." Kellam says the Canadian government's main concern is "the protection of these workers – that they're not being exploited while they're in the country."

Loosening The Rules

Nobody knows how many undocumented immigrants are in Alberta. "Because these people are disappearing into the underground economy, we can't say exactly how many they are [or] where they are," says McGowan. "Our sense is that the prob-

lem is growing, but because they're illegal and undocumented, we just can't put a number on it."

Despite the many concerns raised about the foreign worker program, the federal government has repeatedly loosened the program's rules to make it easier for Alberta employers to bring in workers. As recently as January 14, Monte Solberg, minister of Human Resources and Social Development—the department that runs the program—announced a further expansion of the program. Alberta and B.C. employers seeking foreign workers for 33 different jobs, including roofers, meatcutters and ironworkers, now get their applications fast-tracked by the federal government. Before Solberg's announcement, only 12 jobs were fast-tracked.

With each of Solberg's announcements, however, there has been no mention of the problems that accompany the influx of temporary workers. "The federal government... has really done this program badly," says Jim Gurnett, executive director of the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. "It's a disservice to the foreign workers coming, and it's a disservice to the rest of us."

Gurnett met with Solberg in November 2006 to discuss problems with the foreign worker program, including the possibility of more workers staying in Canada without any legal status. (At the time, Solberg was Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.)

"You could see you were inviting that danger," says Gurnett. His warning, however, didn't shift the government's course on foreign workers. "The very next day, [Solberg] held a news conference here announcing further loosening of the whole process, and a commitment to bring even more [temporary foreign workers]—rather than fewer—as I had said was wise."

Helping Hands Tied

The Calgary and Edmonton Mennonite Centres for Newcomers are limited as to how much they can help foreign workers and undocumented immigrants because the federal government funds the centres to work with permanent immigrants.

Only a small fraction of their budget is allocated for foreign workers, despite the swelling foreign worker population in Alberta. "It's very unsatisfying," says Gurnett. "My staff become really discouraged by it." In Calgary, Castro says she has to tell undocumented immigrants to report themselves to the federal government. "It's very difficult," she says.

Gurnett's staff in Edmonton typically try to link undocumented immigrants to a church or cultural group that can offer help. However,

if an undocumented immigrant is facing serious health or legal problems, Gurnett says his organization does what it can to help. "We have a moral obligation to do that," says Gurnett. "If they no longer have any legal status, our first priority is really to make sure they have some legal advice on what it means.... In good conscience we can't just pretend that they aren't in any danger."

A major problem with the program, says Gurnett, is that brokers in foreign countries often pitch the program dishonestly to would-be workers.

"Even though it's a complete lie, those brokers will say to them, 'Once you're in the country, it'll be no trouble getting to stay,'" he says. "So they sort of come believing that they're going to be able to become immigrants."

Castro says some undocumented immigrants she's spoken with aren't even aware of their illegal status. "Some of them think that because they don't need a visa to come here, they can stay forever and also can work and live like a permanent resident," she says. "There's a lot of confusion."

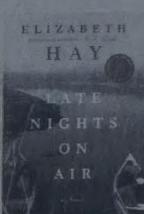
While the federal government has been reluctant to acknowledge the shortcomings of its foreign worker program, the provincial government—which is responsible for labour standards—has acknowledged and started to address some of the problems. The province opened two "advisory offices" for temporary foreign workers in December, and earlier this month banned an Ontario recruiting agency from operating in Alberta. (The agency had been illegally charging foreign workers for connections to jobs in Alberta.) The province also created two four-person teams to inspect workplaces where there are foreign workers to ensure they're "being treated fairly"—although the teams phone the workplaces several days before the inspection which, say critics, gives the employer time to clean up in act.

Ultimately, however, responsibility for the program lies with the federal government. Gurnett says the government should charge a fee to employers for every foreign worker they bring to Canada; those fees would then be distributed to immigrant organizations so foreign workers could get services when they need them. Gurnett has pitched the fee idea to Solberg and others. "The federal government doesn't seem to have shown the slightest interest," he says.

"The federal government is going in every way, in the exact opposite direction of building a strong society and treating human beings with dignity."

The Book Outlet

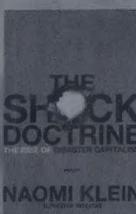
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NEWS • OIL SANDS • BY BRIAN GOLIGHTLY | 629 words

Crude Reputation

WHILE ENVIRONMENTALISTS FIGHT OIL SANDS EXPANSION, STELMACH PROMOTES OUR OIL ABROAD

While Premier Ed Stelmach and energy minister Mel Knight were abroad promoting Alberta oil last week, environmentalists were in an Edmonton federal courtroom challenging a proposed oil sands project.

Imperial Oil's Kearl project involves a \$7 billion investment in a 200-square-kilometre area north of Fort McMurray, but the approvals for the project were unlawful, argues Sean Nixon, a lawyer with Ecojustice, formerly Sierra Legal Defence Fund, run by a coalition of environmental groups, including the Pembina Institute, the Sierra Club of Canada, the Toxics Watch Society of Alberta and the Prairie Acid Rain Coalition. The exploration rights were granted, he said, "based on a flawed Joint Panel report that relied on unproven measures to address the project's significant environmental effects."

The Kearl Environmental Management Plan claims "to the extent practical, lands reclaimed will have traditional land use capability and available access." However, no land used in the process of oil sands extraction has yet been designated as successfully reclaimed by Alberta Environment, and the definition of reclamation itself remains at issue. Currently proposed measures to restore ecosystems from open pit mines and tailings ponds by stockpiling muskeg, leaf litter, and micro-organisms for later replacement have left biologists shaking their heads.

Meanwhile, the province's politicians were offering a different perspective to audiences abroad.

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1

1st Person Edmonton's Stories

SEE

Domestic concerns about environmental and social fallout due to overdevelopment, weak environmental controls, and poor planning were not on the agenda, but reassuring Alberta's trade partners and encouraging further investment definitely were.

At the Alberta Enterprise Group Energy Forum in Washington, Premier Ed Stelmach warned that attempts to slow down or stop oil sands production could jeopardize American energy security. He called concerns that oil from Alberta's tar sands comes at too high an environmental price a "myth."

The Alberta Enterprise Group (AEG) echoed Stelmach, hoping to emphasize the role of the oil sands in U.S. energy security. Concern had been raised that federal legislation

NO LAND USED IN THE PROCESS OF OIL SANDS EXTRACTION HAS YET BEEN DESIGNATED AS RECLAIMED, AND THE DEFINITION OF RECLAMATION ITSELF REMAINS AT ISSUE.

signed by President George Bush in December could exclude oil sands products from purchase by high-consumption federal agencies like the military.

The legislation says that no U.S. federal agency can enter a fuel contract "unless...the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and combustion of the fuel supplied...[is] less than or equal to such emissions from the equivalent conventional fuel produced from conventional petroleum sources" (Section 526, Energy Inde-

pendence and Security Act 2007).

Currently, oil sands products from Alberta would not fulfill these requirements.

In London, at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel overlooking Hyde Park, Alberta Energy Minister Mel Knight addressed the First Annual European Oil Sands Forum, organized by TD Newcrest (a division of TD Securities Inc.) The Energy Minister was there to promote Alberta as a secure place for international investment and to promote Alberta's oil sands as a global commodity. In a speech later to the U.K. Chamber of Commerce, Knight observed, "The oil sands industry has met a multitude of challenges and continues to deliver the energy North America needs in a safe, secure, reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound manner. Alberta has a highly regarded technical, environmental, and socio-economic regulatory review process for any large-scale industrial project."

The Kearl hearings concluded on Friday, and the court has reserved judgment.

In the meantime, the oil sands are looking positive to investors.

"On the flip side of the Peak Oil crisis," says an Energy and Capital e-Letter ad from the Canadian Economic Press website, "lies the greatest money-making opportunity of the 21st century. Chances are you're already familiar with our northern neighbor's booming oil sands. Alberta, Canada's oil sands contain an estimated 174 billion barrels of oil. Meanwhile, the White House has urged Canada to pull out all the stops to increase oil sands production by 400 per cent. And capital investment in the sands has been unstoppable."

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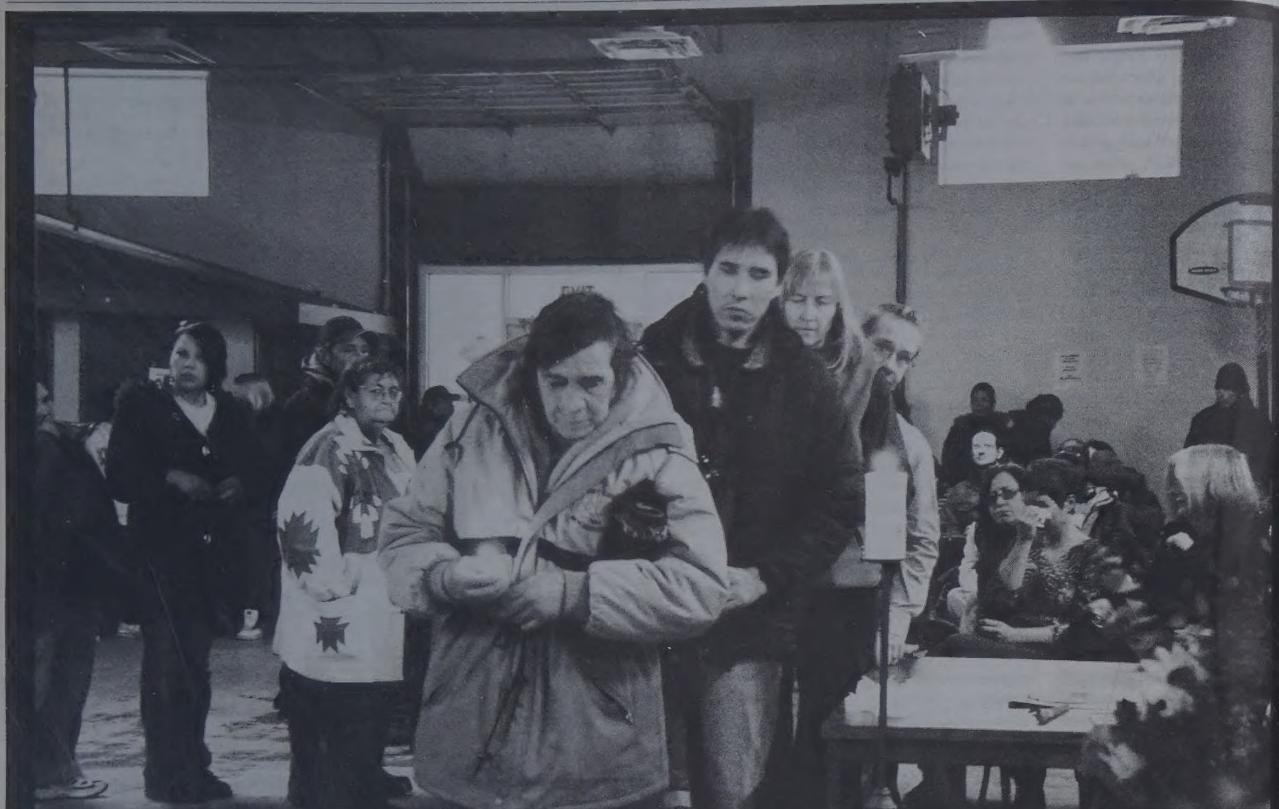


lookback

WEEK IN REVIEW

"They could serve to jeopardize this country's energy security at a time when Asian markets are clamouring for Oil"

-Premier Ed Stelmach on U.S environmental policies that could hurt sales of Alberta oil, Edmonton Journal



JANUARY 19, 2008 | 4:51:27 PM | BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE | PHOTO BY CLARA HO

Volunteers light candles at the Third Annual Homeless Memorial Celebration in memory of 44 homeless people who died in Edmonton.

WITNESS

OUR COMMENT ON THIS WEEK'S NEWS

BY THE NUMBERS

EDMONTON • PUBLIC TRANSIT WHAT HAPPENED TO TRANSIT FANS?

Considering Edmonton just went through a fall civic election in which almost every candidate professed a deep commitment to public transit, 24-hour bus service doesn't have many allies.

The Transit Riders Union of Edmonton has been pushing city council for 24-hour service, with little encouragement from city administration, which estimates the costs at \$15 million.

That's a lot of money, certainly. But building LRT out to St. Albert, Fort Saskatchewan, and the airport will cost us a pretty penny as well.

Edmonton needs an expanded transit system and regional transportation is an important step in our civic thinking, but overstretching the system without providing excellent service within the city boundaries at all times of the day will not increase ridership—and that means trouble for the city, both financially and functionally.

EDMONTON • AFFORDABLE HOUSING NO ROOM AT THE INN

The link between neighbourhood resistance to new projects and Edmonton's affordable housing crisis couldn't be plainer than in the Bergman area. Residents of the northeast neighbourhood are fighting a Habitat for Humanity development because of the project's density.

Fighting Habitat for Humanity is like a shopkeeper telling a Salvation Army Santa not to ring their bell in front of their store—pointlessly selfish and disruptive.

Nor are the Bergmanians the only group in the city blinded by their perceived right to live in single-family-home neighbourhoods. In Inglenwood, the Camell Hospital site redevelopment has been plagued by this same arrogance. The situation was the same with the unused school sites.

Residents should be consulted on new projects in their neighbourhoods, but they should have compassion for those without a home of any kind.

ALBERTA • AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUMMER IN TORY LAND

The sunny disposition of the Alberta government's communication department might have something to do with the fact that, despite the snow on the ground, they still think it's springtime.

On Monday, a press release declared that provincial land will be sold at a nominal cost to community organizations as future affordable housing sites "as recommended in the recent Alberta Affordable Housing Task Force Report." The report came out in March.

Ten months is a long time to wait for a home.

Cynical voters might think the Tories always planned on releasing the crown land for affordable housing, but delayed making some of the other recommendations of affordable housing taskforce a reality until a provincial election was near.

Does that mean rent control is in the cards? Keep dreaming.

NEIGHBOURHOOD LIFE: STRATHCONA VS AVERAGE FOR ALL EDMONTON NEIGHBOURHOODS

* SOURCE: CITY OF EDMONTON

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE CHANGED RESIDENCES IN THE PAST YEAR



FOOD BANK USERS

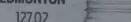
EDMONTON STRATHCONA

228.26 369



STRATHCONA

EDMONTON 127.02



LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

STRATHCONA 275

EDMONTON 91.97

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS NEEDING MAJOR REPAIRS



Needed: BarLink Re-think

**DEFEND NINJA FISH GRIWKOWSKY
THE INFO-HOARDING, ID-
SCANNING NIGHTCLUB RITUAL
ISN'T JUST INTRUSIVE: IT'S
POINTLESS**

Do me a favour and pull out your Alberta ID or license. Nice photo, by the way. But inhale the information on it—your picture, address, postal code. Your birthday, physical description and, for good measure, my signature. The only thing missing is your hit points.

Okay, now, I insist you go over to your PC's scanner, scan the card and e-mail the file to me, c/o SEE Magazine. I need it for security reasons. Okay, what's the matter?

Hopefully right around now you're pulling me to go fuck myself—a perfectly justified reaction to someone trying to copy and indefinitely own your personal ID card. Unfortunately a number of bars aren't even both willing to ask—the begloved bouncers just grab your ID and scan away, handing your valuable information onto a for-profit corporation's centralized database under names like BarLink and SecureClub. Protestations are usually met with nomicropic explanations like "There's a sign" or "It keeps out gangs" or, worst of all, if you don't do anything wrong you should have no problem."

Except, hold on a second, go fuck your fucking selves. We should have "no problem" being info-mined by some company that, originally, suggested the scans would be great for both security and marketing?

I've been waiting a while to bring this one to page. It's always bad to write when you're furious. But the anger just won't drain. I can't believe anyone consents to this shit. This all began for me when I went to a show and the bouncer first grocery-lasered the barcode on my ID to see if the info matched a visual check of my license. Which, by the way, I have no problem with and which, I must also point out, should already allow management to keep track of who's in the bar without an invasive copy-scan of, um, your signature, sent to some mystery company's database.

Because of my work, I had to see the show and the club wouldn't allow me in without being scanned. Just contact BarLink if you want your name out of the system," the well-jacketed bouncer said politely.

"Okay, fine. Easy enough. I hated to leave the place off with all the other BarLink bars—using the system is actually a pretty good indicator that a bar is a dildio oasis, anyway. Sadly, I'd just get out of the system and never come again, or in good conscience promote their shows in them. But the next day I went to bar and discovered that to even enter them you have to input a whole bunch of personal information, af-

ter which they'll get back to you at their own pace. Uh, isn't not having my info in your system the point of all this? Also, there's no local number and their "office" address is a post box. Oddly enough, they seem pretty sensitive about their information, don't they? This'd be funny if it weren't so damn evil. They keep insisting we trust them, while returning no trust whatsoever. It's just plain wrong on that level alone.

Getting back to the whole "it keeps out gangs" thing, BarLink has been around for the last few years—which, I must point out, hasn't exactly been a banner era for peace in our clubs. Intimations of racism aside—we all know what the word "gangs" really means in this town—the idea that some random fight in a bar is going to be reconsidered at the last second because some jarhead is worried his ID was scanned hours earlier just doesn't make any fucking sense. I mean, what do the bouncers do after a fight—ask the guy for his ID as they throw him out the door?

But here's why they'd need it: one of the big selling features at barlink.ca is the fact you can flag troublesome customers. So if, say, one hot-head bouncer has a problem with you, you'll be flagged and banned from any bar in the system for an arbitrary length of time. No trial, just a decision made and you're out? Possibly taking it from him, troublemaker or not, would be illegal. Scrolling through hundreds of patrons is simply impractical. So, uh, how do they get his name from him?

Next month the Alberta Privacy Commission will be ruling on several complaints—we've tried and they said, "Don't bother, there are lots already." I should fucking hope so. This private profiteering system was helped in by the police who, let's face it, subsequently, easily have access to the info. So, potentially, the cops can keep track of your movements now. I asked the EPS to supply me the details of one violent crime solved thanks to BarLink and never heard back from them.

Obviously, this isn't the invasion of Poland. And it's pretty easy to boycott any bar that refuses to tell you whether they use the flawed system when you call ahead. You know there are plenty of bars that don't and which would love to sell me and my friends dozens of drinks any night. But I will call BarLink a soft-fascism tendency, the kind of thing that's supposed to happen in a more paranoid regime like the militarizing U.S. It's a baby step in the entirely wrong direction of total surveillance. Fight this one with me and bigger intrusions will sputter. They're wrong here. So who are they to judge?

If a bar won't trust you but insists you trust it, why the hell would you spend either a cent or second there?

ACTIVISM

ACTIVIST AGENDA An online newsletter resource for activism related events in Edmonton, with up-to-date information on sustainable practices, networking, and active organizations in the city. Supplied and maintained by Earth's General Store (10832-82 Ave., upstairs, 439-8725). Info: www.egs.ca, info also available in-store.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS IN CONFRONTING POVERTY: THE OCAP STORY JAN 30, 12-1:30 PM, DINWIDDIE LOUNGE, U OF A STUDENTS UNION BUILDING Sponsored by Alberta's Demand Affordable Housing (DAH) Bring a donation of winter clothing for Edmonton's homeless. Info: www.dah.ca.

BIKE WORKS Fix your own bike. Edmonton Bicycle Committee BikeWorks is entirely run by volunteers. Hours vary by season; call ahead: 433-2653 www.edmontonbikes.ca.

CJSU NEWS VOLUNTEERING Gain experience in radio, contribute to a diverse community, and learn new skills, all while sharing your community stories. Info: www.cjsu.com.

COUNCIL OF CANADIANS 3RD WED EVERY MONTH Independent public interest organization promoting economic justice, democracy, and asserting Canadian sovereignty. Info: 429-4500.

EDMONTON 9/11 TRUTH An organization for Canadian citizens questioning the events of 9/11. For news, links, and local events: www.edmonton911truth.com.

EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION 3RD WED EVERY MONTH, 7PM An arts activist organization, seeking socially conscious artists, and producing volunteers on an ongoing basis. Info: 434-9236 or contact www.edmontonsmallpress.org.

FRIENDS OF LUBICON ALBERTA THU 4:30 PM, APING OFFICE, HUB MALL, U OF A CAMPUS Grassroots solidarity organization demanding fair and just settlement for the Lubicon Cree of Northern Alberta. Info: www.lubicon.org.

GREENPEACE ALBERTA Working and recruiting active people to help put an end to one of the world's most destructive projects: the Alberta Tar Sands. Info: www.greenpeace.org.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, RM 2-42, HUMANITIES BUILDING, U OF A CAMPUS Meetings open to the public. Info: edmonton.iww.ca.

MADELEINE SANAM FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SATUREVY MONTH, 9 AM-5 PM, FACULTY SAINT-JEAN, 8406-91ST, RM 3-18 Organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Instruction in French, English, and African

languages. Admission free for members; membership \$10. Info: 490-7332.

PEACE AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE MON 5:30 PM

EDUCATION NORTH 4-10A, UOFAC CAMPUS A youth group promoting anti-war and diversity workshops. Info: 425-4544 www.mazzarr.org.

SIEVER CLUB CANADA Prince Chapter works with ecologically and socially conscious individuals to build strong grassroots movement in the Prairies. Info: www.sieverclub.ca, info also available in-store.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS IN CONFRONTING POVERTY: THE OCAP STORY JAN 30, 12-1:30 PM, DINWIDDIE LOUNGE, U OF A STUDENTS UNION BUILDING Sponsored by Alberta's Demand Affordable Housing (DAH) Bring a donation of winter clothing for Edmonton's homeless. Info: www.dah.ca, info also available in-store.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT 4TH FRI EVERY MONTH, UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON, MAIN HALL, 10:00A-11P

ST JAN 25, 7 PM "Breaking the Silence: Truth & Lies in the War on Terror." Co-sponsored by the Unity Church of Edmonton Social Justice Committee, CSC, and Not Just Tours. \$5 donation.

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THOUGHTFUL TUESDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES 7UE, 7PM STEPS TEA LOUNGE, 1116-82 AVE, IAN 29 "Eating" VoA personnel will answer questions on meatless eating. Screens from www.eatingtv.com.

UNESCO COALITION FOR PEACE LAST FRI EVER MONTH, 3 PM, BOYLE McCADLEY HEALTH CENTRE, 2ND FL, BOARDROOM, 10629-95 ST Info: Greenpeace Canada, 922-5566.

WOMEN IN BLACK 1ST & 3RD SAT EVERY MONTH, 10-11AM STRATHCONA FARMERS MARKET, 131 AVE, & 103 ST International women's peace and anti-war group formed by Jewish and Arab women, opposing violence in all forms. All women, men, and children invited to attend the bi-weekly silent vigil. Info: 435-7051.

YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVER MONTH, 5PM REMEDY CAPE, 1631-105 ST For discussion topics and suggested readings www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3559275104.

free, all welcome. Presented by the U of A's department of English and Film Studies.

FACTORY WEST READING SERIES 3RD TUE EVER MONTH, 7:30 PM, UNDERDOUG (BSMT), 425 DOG FREE-HOUSE, 10425-82 AVE A variety of poetry and fiction readings, hosted by Rob McLennan during the remainder of his tenure as the U of A's winter-in-residence. Info: robmclennan.blogspot.com.

JOHN NEWTON BOOK LAUNCH & DOC SCREENING JAN 31, 7PM L-1 HUMANITIES CENTRE, UOFAC CAMPUS Hosted by Rob McLennan, with readings from "A Long Continual Argument: The Selected Poems of John Newton" by Douglas Barbour, Jenna Butler, and Jeff Carpenter. Screening of "What to Make of It All: The Life and Poetry of John Newton". Free.

JUNG FORUM ASSOCIATION LECTURE FEB 5, 7PM, CN CONFERENCE THEATRE, RM 5-142, 105 ST, BUILDING,

MACEWAN CITY CENTER CAMPUS "Exploring the Self-Ego Relationship: The Intimate Connection Between Inner and Outer Space and Place", lecture and discussion w/ Pearl Mindell, Jungian Analyst. \$20, \$15 members. \$10 student/semi-info: www.jungforum.com or 488-0477.

LUNCH BY THE BOOKS STANLEY A MILNER LIBRARY, #7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE Noon-hour discussions offered by the U of A's Faculty of Arts and the Edmonton Public Library. FEB 21 "Local History Music in Edmonton Between the Wars", facilitated by David Grant. Free, everyone welcome. Info: www.uoweb.ulaval.ca/arts/lunchbythebooks.cfm.

POETRY OPEN STAGE THU, 8 PM, NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR, 10394 JASPER AVE, 425-9790 Weekly open stage poetry readings and performances. All welcome.

POETS HAVEN READING SERIES MON, 7 PM, UPPER CRUST CAFE, 10909-86 AVE Weekly readings, presented by the Stroll of Poets Society. JAN 28, spoken word artists Ray Rasmussen, Vanda Ullo Petru, Cathy Hodgson, Naomi McWhirr, Marilyn Dumont, and Wayne Patterson. \$5 at the door. Info: 472-8714 or www.strollofpoets.com.

POETS INK THU, 7 PM, ST. THOMAS CAFE, ST. ALBERT Weekly writing evenings. Info: www.poetsink.org.

STORY SLAM 3RD WED EVERY MONTH, 8 PM, BLUE CHAIR, 9624-76 AVE Sign-up 7pm. First ten writers only, allotted five minutes each. Info: thebumkinprojects@hotmail.com.

WELCOME TO THE REEL WORLD WED 5 PM U OF A, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING (CEB) 325 Global issues film and speaker series. JAN 30, "A Little Bit of Much Truth"; FEB 6 "The Orange Revolution"; FEB 13, "From Dust: The Untold Story of Life After the Tsunami"; FEB 27, "The Blood of Yingzhou District". Info: www.weak.ulaval.ca.

READINGS & LECTURES

A FRESH START FOR THE CAPITAL REGION JAN 31, 7-8:30 PM, NATURAL RESOURCE ENGINEERING RM 1-001, U OF A CAMPUS The City Region Studies Centre presents a presentation and panel discussion on the issues of regional development. Guest Speaker Dr. Mark Partridge. Info: www.crc.ulaval.ca.

CREATIVE WORKS READINGS FEB 1, 12 NOON, HUMANITIES CENTRE, RM 4-29, U OF A CAMPUS Sharon English, author of "Uncomfortably Numb" and "Zero Gravity" FEB 12, Jen Sookfong Lee, author of "The End of East". Readings

NEW THEATRE POSITION

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www.esplanade.ca / www.medicinehat.ca

We thank all applicants; however, only those selected
for an interview will be contacted.



As featured in the
CALGARY HERALD
EDMONTON JOURNAL

KILLING TIME • BUS TOURS • BY NINA VARSAVA | 125 words

Alternative ETS



You Suck Southgate! | Sadly, the ETS' hapless #51 didn't make our list of Edmonton's best bus routes. PHOTO SUPPLIED

FROM THE DAYDREAMER #130 TO THE UTOPIAN #52, LET SEE TAKE YOU ON AN EXISTENTIAL TOUR OF EDMONTON'S BUSES

Compared to other cities of comparable size, Edmonton's public transportation system kind of sucks. Old, rickety buses break down regularly; routes are often debilitatingly inefficient, many running on extremely limited schedules; and if there's a little snow, a bus might not show up at all. A paucity of bus lanes means that buses are bound by traffic when they should be zooming past other vehicles. But if you can be existential about it and forget about making

it from point A to point B, our bus system isn't half-bad. Maybe you have some thinking to do. Nothing like a bumpy ride with constantly changing scenery to foster productive contemplation. Or what about designing your own scenic tour of Edmonton? Maybe a friend is coming to visit from out of town—it's a wonderful way to while away the day while showing the city off to them. (Oops, no time for West Ed!) Have a date coming up, but are suffering from a cashflow problem? Bring a couple of juice boxes and tool around on the buses all evening.

Just be aware that unless you like to stand or remain in a tight, mo-

bile space with innumerable strangers, avoid peak hours—plan to ride between about 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., or any time after 6 p.m.

Here's a handy list of my favourites among Edmonton's 150-plus bus routes.

30: The Suburban Prester Route

This route goes from the University to Riverbend to Southgate. The 30 dips into newer Edmonton, offering a taste of the monotonous houses, the token strips of contrived green, and the general banality that characterizes suburbia. During school hours, the bus is dominated by preppy high-school or junior-high benders fixing their hair and makeup, talking on cellphones, and sharing earbuds.

At night the #30 is serviced by a frightening mini-bus that clangs and clatters down the streets with dead shocks, occasionally hitting a pothole that pops you dangerously out of your seat. The drivers are unaffected by all this, but make up for it by being generally nice, and good at getting the bus out of snowbanks.

52: The Utopian Route

This bus goes from Southgate to downtown, following a wonderfully convoluted route that rambles through some of the most beautiful areas in Edmonton. The 52 covers the colourful Strathcona neighbourhood, crosses Whyte Avenue at 104 Street, and passes by the quaint Strathcona branch of the Edmonton Public Library. (Hop off here for some late-afternoon reading and perhaps a short nap at one of the sleepy tables.)

The bus then travels east down Saskatchewan Drive and down through

the river valley on Queen Elizabeth Park Road, where passengers get a beautifully bleak view of downtown Edmonton. After crossing the river on the Low Level Bridge, the 52 traverses the legislature grounds, where you can jump out for a tour of Edmonton's governmental digs. The bus continues north into the heart of downtown, dawdling in Chinatown before heading back south.

The 52's clientele may be eccentric to look at, but they're generally calm and keep to themselves—all appear to be enjoying the ride and appreciating the city.

#130: The Daydreamer

This bus goes from the University to NAIT, and is populated mainly by mature students with their heads bowed over various reading materials. The bus heads north down Groat Road, and emerges from the river valley on Victoria Park Road, where passengers can watch Edmonton's fittest citizens running up and down the difficult hill, and even hop off for a quick workout, should they be so inclined.

This is a pretty neutral route: not too much to see, but not painful either. Quiet and peaceful, the #130 is a good daydreamer, or a nice ride for reading a book. Cellphones and iPods are rare, which makes for a minimum of irritating distractions.

9: The Mechanical Snake

This is a must-take route, if only for the accordion bus. Twisting around corners and traffic circles like a demented snake, the #9 traverses the greater part of the city as it makes its way from Southgate to Northgate. The bus jacks north down 109 Street, then zips through downtown. You can jump off at the City Centre Mall for an urban shopping adventure, or have lunch in Churchill Square on a temperate day.

The #9 also passes the huge casino on 104 Avenue, so if you can't resist the flashy lights, bring a little extra cash and head in for some mid-day gambling. The bus completes the NAIT loop, and then heads east at the inexplicably named "Avenue of Champions" (118 Ave to the rest of us). You'll pass the Christian Life Center, and then the Polish Food and Gift Centre, so get off here and pick up some Christian life and Polish sausage all in the same stop.

The #9 is populated by an older crowd, with few readers. Always busy, this route makes for a stimulating ride, but is one to avoid if you're looking for a peaceful journey.

#8: The Cross-City Express
The #8 goes from Abbotsford to the northeast end all the way to the woods. En route, the bus passes Grant MacEwan, the City Centre, Churchill Square, Telus Place, and the Hotel Macdonald. Get on the Mac on a Sunday morning, use the money you saved by taking public transit all week on a glorified brunch.

After crossing the river, the bus ascends Connors Road, passing Mill Creek Ravine Park and offering a view of Muttart Conservatory. The bus comes out of the river valley at Bonnie Doon, passing a neat houses, as well as the Connor School of Ballet and the Bonnie Doon Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre before flying south to the woods. And I mean flies: the last ride I took, the bus driver made a stop that an older woman had requested. When he explained that she had pushed the stop button twice, she retorted that he "was traveling way too fast!"

"Oh was I?" he snapped. "Okay, let you drive next time."

#5: The Inner-City Express
The #5 goes from Westmount to Coliseum, and is the most gay route I've found in Edmonton. I used to take the #5 in the early evenings when it starts getting really interesting but isn't quite scary yet. Run east down Jasper, the bus passes Shaw Conference Centre and Canada Place before turning north on Street and entering the Chinatown gates at 102 Avenue. Passengers get a glimpse of 25-cent Pogo in a great view of the vibrant outdoors at iHuman Youth Society.

The #5 then trundles through Little Italy; jump off here and go to the Italian Centre Shop (100-95 St) for an amazing selection of cheeses and olives. Make sure you have some room in your stomach though; their samples are generous and impossible to turn down. After taking a right on 118 Avenue, the #5 passes by XXX Pussy Cat where you can hop off and pick up some "marital aids and CD-Roms". The chances of someone passing on the bus are high, and it's hard to know whether to help them or leave them rest. I chose the latter.

Traversing a diversity of terrain, and carrying a diverse passenger load, the #5 is a must-ride for anyone deserving of an open mind and a smile.

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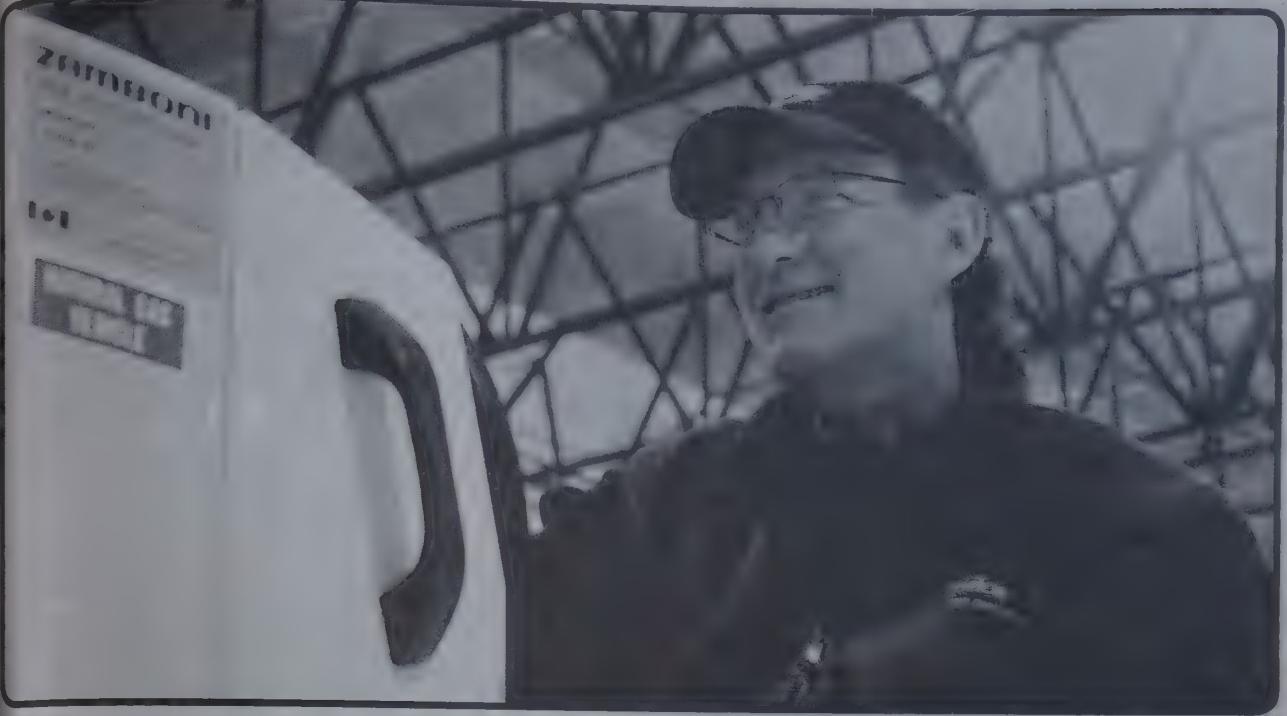
10 week session Tuesdays from 7:30-8:45pm.
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15 minutes

DAVID JONES | ARENA ATTENDANT AND ZAMBONI DRIVER |
PHOTO BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY

Q&A WITH EDMONTONIANS BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY

What does a Zamboni do?

The Zamboni has a few different components—there's a very sharp blade in the back that scrapes the ice, and it's up to us to know how deep to control that blade, and there are augers that lift it into the machine and there's some water that finishes it off at the end. Which why we call it flooding the rink...it fills in the cracks and gouges and gives it a nice finish.

That's a funny word, Zamboni. What's the story behind it?

Well, the originator was Frank Zamboni, he's the inventor, which I believe was in the '50s. Before that I've heard that they had tractors where you would pull something behind it with water and then scrape that. I don't remember the days of the Edmonton Gardens but the Zamboni is really advanced compared to back then. The ice today, even at small arenas, is really first-rate.

They just had to make do with less-than-perfect ice back in the day?

That's right, yeah. Tractors with water pulled behind. I re-

member playing on outdoor ice as a kid and they just had a scraper—the parents would go out and scrape it down.

What's your favourite arena to work on in the city?

Well, I've worked at Bill Hunter in the west end, and that has a lot of history. It's just tremendous, just the way it's built with the bleachers around the outside. It's a really classic bowl, and they've had lots of events over the years. Concerts, a circus. Roy Orbison played there once, even at small arenas, is really first-rate.

So, is there a Zamboni brotherhood of any kind?

Not that I know of, unless they're keeping me out of it! I've actually heard that in Saskatchewan they have pictures of Zamboni attendants on the walls, so maybe there!

What's the strangest thing you've ever been asked to do as an arena attendant?

A gal asked me if I had some pliers because she had to have her nose ring removed—I guess that kind of body jewelry can't be worn on the ice. But I didn't have anything except a hacksaw, and she wasn't too thrilled with that idea!

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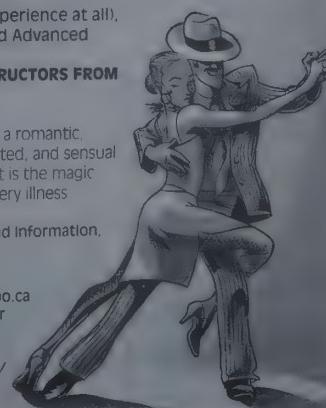
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Carnivore on the Floor

I MAY BE A VEGETARIAN, BUT MY STEAK DINNER AT VON'S HAS ME DROOLING ALL OVER MY KEYBOARD

VON'S STEAK AND FISH HOUSE
10309-81 Ave., 439-0041

Of all the things that stand between me and a life of vegetarianism, the biggest obstacle might just be a steak. I cherish me all manner of meat, from the lowly hot dog to the mighty chicken wing, the degenerate donair and the transcendent lamb kebab in equal measure, and all dispositions of pig. But a flame-broiled cut of beef, to me, is the pinnacle of carnivory, the most toothsome morsel to which our mammalian chewing apparatus can aspire.

So when I heard about Fork Fest, a promotion undertaken by 17 local independent restaurants operating under the rubric of Originalfare, I seized the notion of enjoying a steak dinner with one of the participating vendors. The promotion seemed to have its intended effect—the first few places we tried to book a meal were full up on Sunday. Luckily we



Rare Treats | Surf 'n' turf's Von's answer to Meat-Eater Mondays. PHOTO BY SCOTT LINGLEY

found Von's available to seat us on Monday night. My co-diner and I walked from home to the restaurant in expectation of a meal that would require some walking off afterward.

Each of the participating restaurants in Fork Fest offer a special three-course menu for either \$20 or \$35 from Sunday to Thursday for the last couple of weeks in January, and the menus listed at originalfare

com do look spectacular. Von's, however, presented the additional attraction of their regular Monday night special: steak and lobster for \$22

On top of that, it's a nice place to sit after a stroll in the cold. Our table in the long, warmly lit dining room was right next to the blue-flame hearth inset with river-smoothed stones. Von's prix fixe menu for Fork Fest, we were told by our nervously efficient

FINE DINING

HARDWARE GRILL (12406-66 ST) Arguably one of the best restaurants in Edmonton. Be warned, however, if you go, it's an undertaking. Definitely not the type of place you just pop into with friends on a whim. Be prepared to fast for at least a week before going, and hibernate afterwards: the portions are way too big (and are ordered accordingly).

MADISON'S GRILL (10503 JASPER AVE) Without a doubt, one of the top restaurants in Edmonton. The warm and comfortable surroundings make this a perfect place for a romantic getaway, or for that special occasion.

★★★★★

FRENCH

LA TABLE DE RENOIR (10046-101A AVE) Can't think of a better way to spend your lunch hour or a warm summer evening than sitting on La Table de Renoir's patio enjoying one their traditionally prepared Provençal classics. A nice touch of cafe culture here in downtown Edmonton.

★★★★★

server, included a mixed green salad with raspberry vinaigrette for starters; a choice of prime rib, peppered New York striploin or chicken breast stuffed with asiago and spinach; and a finale of pecan pie topped with Bernard Callebaut chocolate and ice cream. I opted for the New York striploin, all 10 ounces of it (priced at \$26 on their regular menu), rare, with garlic mashed potatoes and veggies. My date said yes to the five-ounce sirloin and four-ounce lobster tail with garlic mashed.

The ample salad, tossed with wee teardrop tomatoes, orange segments, and candied almonds appeared in a trice (whatever that is). The bright pink vinaigrette was an aggressively tart counterpoint—my mouth waters just recalling it—to the sugary nuts and fleshy fruits, and the greens were so fresh I instantly felt guilty for the investment of carbon-based energy it must have taken to keep them that way from the time they were picked until they reached my plate.

Murmured conversation, sips of beverage, and a basket of whole grain bread with whipped butter filled the brief lull before the arrival of the main courses. Mine was all I'd hoped for, a large oval of grilled Sterling Silver Alberta beef under a viscous pool of green peppercorn sauce, a buttery mound of mashed

potatoes with slips of red skin a festoon of green: snap peas, zucchini, and a large broccoli crown. My almost comically large knife sank through the striploin reveal the resplendent puce of the perfect rare steak. I was enjoying it for my first mouthful which case, did not disappoint. Then I found a bit salty, but the spicy explosions of green pepper therein definitely made the taste that much better. The potatoes were rich and well-seasoned, as like another sauce to enjoy with.

My co-diner found her steatouch overdose—she'd ordered medium rare—but relished the smoothness of the lobster tail and sandwich portion was perfect for her appetite. She did, however, covet my vegetables.

Under normal circumstance

BURGERS

MOTORAUNT (12406-66 ST) Although the food is relatively good, the real reason I visit Motoraunt is to see the physical structure of the place. To say it's uniquely handsome does it justice. Unless you've been there, you've likely never had an experience like Motoraunt.

★★★★★

CAFÉ

MILL CREEK CAFÉ (9562-82 AVE) If you're visiting Edmonton and staying downtown, walk south down the stairs to the MacDonald, cross the bridge, and head into Mill Creek ravine. Follow the path, go up the hill at the Mill Creek Pool parking lot and wade right to the Mill Creek Café for a light bite or treat. That way you'll experience both the great geography and the small-town hospitality we're so proud of.

★★★★★

CASUAL ELEGANT

BACON (6509-112 AVE) This great little bohemian-chic restaurant offers a limited choice of familiar (ish) items with

some innovative twists. By pairing locally produced items with some deft hands in the kitchen, they manage to pull off simple organic dishes that are worth remembering.

★★★★★

CHINESE

NEW TAN TAN (10133-97 ST) If you're a dim sum veteran, you'll probably be happy enough with the New Tan Tan and its somewhat "rugged" style. But if you're new to this type of service and are looking for dim sum for dum-dums, you might want to try something a little less...haggard?

★★★★★

EUROPEAN

CONTINENTAL TREAT (10506-82 AVE) Definitely not the type of place that hopes to dazzle you with its creativity—the menu consists mostly of standard (somewhat plain) preparations of Eastern European favourites. It's the type of restaurant that used to set the standard for high-class dining, and it can still be a nice treat.

★★★★★

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★★★★★

HOTEL

HOTEL MACDONALD (CONFEDERATION LOUNGE) (10065-100 ST) Wondering whatever happened to the grand old tradition of hotel dining? It's at the Hotel Macdonald. But if you're not up to dropping some large coin on a meal, pop by the Mar's Confederation Room for a glass of wine and a bite to eat. It's a guilty pleasure everyone should experience once.

★★★★★

INDIAN

TANDOORI GRILL EXPRESS & MONTREAL DELI (6508-75 ST) Despite the odd menu, these folks are capable of some fine cuisine. If you go, spend some time chatting with the staff and see if they can prepare any of your favourites. If so, you just might find that you have a new favourite tandoori restaurant.

★★★★★

HAWELI (10220-103 ST)

Tasty food and excellent naan bread, but I was warned—they do a lunch buffet. If that's not

your thing, I'd say maybe try Haweli for dinner.

★★★★★

ITALIAN

SANTOS PIZZA AND STEAK (10821-95 ST) Excellent for a luncheon sandwich in the heart of Edmonton's Italy. It's not all fancy schmancy and uptight, but it isn't all fancy schmancy and uptight. They offer standard Italian fare, prepared well at reasonable prices. What's not to like?

★★★★★

KOSHER

CAFÉ LEVI (EUROPA BOULEVARD, WEM) You gotta mesheghen if you think there's a better place for a kosher meal. In the next time you're at the mall and you're hungry, do yourself a favour and give this kosher food a try for an orthodox take on traditional mall fare.

★★★★★

MIDDLE EASTERN

KAMIL'S TURKISH CAFÉ AND RESTAURANT (10046-101 AVE) If you're the type who can relax and just go with the flow and not be too put off by Kamil's location and nature, you might have a new favorite little spot for down-home Turkish food.

★★★★★

PIZZA

FAMOUS NEAPOLITAN PIZZERIA (10750 JASPER AVE) If you're interested in good food in a fast-food atmosphere or are looking for franchise opportunities, look no further than Famoso. They serve authentic Neapolitan pizza per the regulations set out by the Associazione Verace Pizzeria Napoletana, and they do it quickly.

★★★★★

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Shade TANNING

server, included a mixed green salad with raspberry vinaigrette for starters; a choice of prime rib, peppered New York striploin or chicken breast stuffed with asiago and spinach; and a finale of pecan pie topped with Bernard Callebaut chocolate and ice cream. I opted for the New York striploin, all 10 ounces of it (priced at \$26 on their regular menu), rare, with garlic mashed potatoes and veggies. My date said yes to the five-ounce sirloin and four-ounce lobster tail with garlic mashed.

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Under normal circumstance

MBIBING · A GLASS OF AYKROYD · BY MELISSA PRIESTLEY | 105 words

Celebs in the Cellar

WINE BOTTLES BEARING THE NAMES OF CELEBRITY VINTNERS ARE RARELY BLOCKBUSTERS

Take a peek at the shelves of your average wine store, and I bet you a shiny nickel that you'll find at least one bottle of "celebrity" wine. From PGA golfers and NASCAR drivers to Hollywood actors and rock stars, everyone's got a wine to call their own. It seems wine has joined the perfume industry as just another stop on the road of fame.

However, I'm suspicious of any company that uses something as meaningless as a celebrity endorsement to sell its products. In theory, a good product shouldn't need the clout of a big name. I recently taste-tested a variety of tinseltown wines, perhaps not surprisingly their

quality corresponded to the celebrity's level of involvement in the wine-making process.

Tribute Bottles and Quick Cash

In Canada, Dan Aykroyd, Wayne Gretzky, and Mike Weir have all recently launched wines under their names, while Jason Priestley belongs to Vinequest Wine Partners, a Calgary-based investment group that just bought Canada's famous Black Hills winery. While these celebs are often described as "winemakers," they are anything but—most of them have little or no participation in the actual wine production. Aykroyd's wines are made by Lakeview Cellars; the former *Saturday Night Live* cast member is merely an investor and spokesman. Similarly, Mike Weir and Wayne Gretzky's wines are both

produced by Ontario's Creekside Estates Winery.

An offshoot of the celebrity wine trend are tribute bottles, which pay homage to a famous person but are not usually affiliated with them in any way beyond the use of their name/image. Celebrity Cellars, for instance, is an American company that bottles wines saluting The Rolling Stones, Kiss, Madonna, Celine Dion, and Barbra Streisand. Similarly, Marilyn Monroe Cellars has wines in honour of the iconic poster girl (Marilyn Merlot, anyone?). While Graceland Cellars makes Elvis Presley wine.

From Hollywood Hill to Vineyard Dirt

At the opposite end of the spectrum are celebrities who actually participate in making the wine that bears their name. Tess Parker (who played Davy Crockett on the 1950s television show) and Francis Ford Coppola both own and operate family



wineries. While naming the winery after themselves obviously calls attention to their stardom, their labels and websites focus less on the name and more on the actual product. Some celebrities even pick unrelated names for their winery, like Maynard James Keenan, lead singer of Tool and A Perfect Circle, whose

Arizona winery is named Caduceus.

Curtis Bawden of Pacific Wines & Spirits, the importing agency that handles Coppola and Parker's wines, argues that when assessing the quality of a celebrity wine, you have to ask "what's the story behind the wine really is."

STORY cont'd pg 16

\$0 BUCK - STRETCHING YOUR WEEKEND DOLLAR - BY PAULA CORNELL | 160 words

Traversing The Town For Sweetness And Light

THIS E-TOWN WEEKEND, I'LL LAVISH MY \$50 BUDGET ON CHOCOLATES, DAFFODILS, AND QUALITY CINEMA

\$10: Drop-in Life Drawing at Harcourt House

Friday night, after strolling across the High Level Bridge and meandering through the old neighbourhoods downtown, I'll make my way to Harcourt House for the "life drawing" sessions. I haven't made a lot of art since before Christmas when I was frantically crafting presents for family and friends, so a three-hour session at Harcourt will be a welcome revival of my skills.

\$2.50: Cupcake at The Whimsical Cake Studio

Saturday morning I will ride the Number 30 River Ridge to one of Edmonton's finest cupcake shops, The Whimsical Cake Studio (4910 Riverbend Rd.). I will feast first with my nose, as I enter the tiny bright shop and take in the sweet, delectable scents of vanilla and chocolate that await my watering nostrils. I'll enjoy the many beautiful colours and styles of cupcakes to be found in the front display counter, before perhaps selecting an old favourite—a fluffy white cake with sky blue coconut icing—or trying something new.

\$2.50: Daffodils at Eden Lilly

After savouring the sweet delight of my cupcake, I will make my way

to Eden Lilly (10416-82 Ave.), one of Edmonton's newest flower shops. I discovered this little shop one day when I stepped off the bus right in front of the storefront. If there are any daffodils left I will buy two bunches (\$7 each) and head out with a bounce in my step to engage in a little random act of kindness by leaving one bunch on someone's doorstep—good karma points—and then head off to an old folks' home near my house to visit with the elderly and share the bright yellow cheerfulness with them. Double-good karma.

\$10: Movie at The Princess or Garneau

À la my favourite movie, *Amélie*. I will take in a show at one of Edmonton's independent theatres, snuggle into one of the creaky seats, and lose myself in the latest foreign film, environmental documentary, or indie masterpiece playing on the big screen. Perhaps I will look back into the dark theatre and peek at the faces of the other moviegoers like *Amélie* does!

\$8.50: Chocolate at the Italian Centre Shop

Sundays are the best days in my opinion. They are the days of sleeping in, long strolls in the Millcreek

Ravine, curling up in bed with a good book, or going for coffee with a good friend. I will treat my friend Ellen to our favorite spot, the Italian Centre Shop (5028-104A St.). We'll walk down every row looking at all the different foods and taking in the smells

of freshly baked breads, olives, and fine cheeses, pretending we're in Europe before we predictably settle on bars of Ritter Sport Chocolate: perfectly square bars of varying chocolatey goodness, some dark, some milk, and my favourite, filled with a light and flavorful coconut paste. Then we'll head to the university for our last adventure of the weekend.

\$5: Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's College

Sunday evenings at 9 p.m. I often make my way to St. Joseph's College (11325-89 Ave.) for mass. I think it's a nice way to end a good Sunday. Mass at the College is unlike other church services: there are few pews, the rest is open space where people young and old crowd to sit on the floor in front of the priest. I enjoy the music, and the sermon is thought-provoking and mind-enriching. I always leave with a new thought and light heart, so the remainder of my \$0 bucks will end up in the collection basket before I call it a night and get ready for another work week.

Wanna try it? Send your ideas for \$0 Buck to stories@see.greatwest.ca.



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DAILY SCHEDULE:

- 6:00 pm: Welcome to NAIT presentation, NAIT Shaw Theatre
- 6:30 pm, repeating at 7:45 pm: individual program info sessions (check website for room locations)
- 6:30 pm, repeating at 7:45 pm: Parents as Career Coaches seminar, Room X209

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 4

Business and Administration

- Applied Banking and Business
- Bachelor of Applied Business Administration - Accounting
- Bachelor of Applied Business - Finance
- Business Administration
- Accounting
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TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 5

Engineering Technologies and Applied Sciences

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- Biomedical Engineering Technology
- Building Environmental Systems Technology and HVAC
- Chemical Engineering Technology
- Chemical Technology
- Forest Technology
- Geological Technology
- Industrial Heavy Equipment Technology
- Instrumentation Engineering Technology
- Materials Engineering Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Petroleum Engineering Technology
- Power Engineering 3rd Class, 4th Class and Power Engineering Technology
- Water and Wastewater Technician

Environment and Land Management

- Geomatics (Surveying)
- Engineering Technology
- Landscape Architectural Technology

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 6

Building Construction and Design

- Architectural Technology
- Civil Engineering Technology
- Construction Engineering Technology
- Engineering Design and Drafting Technology
- Interior Design Technology
- Millwork and Carpentry

Recreation and Outdoors

- Marine Service Technician
- Motorcycle Mechanic
- Petroleum Engineering Technology
- Power Engineering 3rd Class, 4th Class and Power Engineering Technology
- Water and Wastewater Technician

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- Machinist, Pre-employment
- Millwright, Pre-employment
- Railway Conductor
- Aircraft Skin and Structure Repair
- Auto Body Technician, Pre-trades
- Automotive Mechanic, Pre-trades
- CNC Machinist Technician
- General Mechanic
- Harley-Davidson Technician
- Heavy Equipment Service (Think Big)
- Machinist, Pre-employment
- Millwright, Pre-employment
- Railway Conductor

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NAIT



STORY NAME from pg 15

In 1975, Coppola rescued the historic Inglenook winery, which dates back to the 1880s, from near-oblivion. While the winery was of a much larger scale than Coppola originally intended (he was looking for a summer home in the area and was planning simply to make a little wine in his basement), he took the plunge and has since made a very successful line of wines. The director's first-hand involvement in the business speaks volumes about his credibility. As Curtis states, "Coppola is involved with everything. All the decision-making is in his hands. He is not out to make a quick buck."

Show Time

Even celebrities are innocent until proven guilty (until O.J. Simpson opens a winery, anyway), so I decided to test-drive some celebrity wines. On the table were the 2005 Fess Parker Viognier (\$29), the 2006 Dan Aykroyd Chardonnay (\$18), the 2005 Marilyn Merlot (\$38), the 2005 Francis Ford Coppola Rosso (\$20), the 2005 Mario Andretti Zinfandel (\$36), and the 2005 Elvis Presley Stuck on You Shiraz (\$21).

The results were mostly discouraging, though the Fess Parker Viognier and Marilyn Merlot were quite good; the Viognier had intense fruit concentration and a delicious nose of dried apricots, honey, and a hint of mint, while the Merlot had a spicy,

meaty palate and would make a great pizza wine. Alternately, you could leave the bottle unopened and use it to pad your retirement fund according to the website. Marilyn will quickly appreciate in value, with 12-bottle sets of the 1985 through 1996 vintages currently selling for \$8,000.

The Coppola Rosso was okay; it was juicy and smooth to the point that it was earthy to the point of tasting like dirt, it was quaffable. The rest were crap. The Dan Aykroyd Chard smelled like a mixture of laundry detergent and antiseptic and left a soapy coating in my mouth; you'd be better off spraying on the curtains rather than pouring into a glass on your table. Similarly, the Andretti Zin was bitter, unpleasant, and smelled like dog excrement. The Elvis Shiraz was inoffensive but not very interesting either, like elsewhere for your hunk of bumlove.

Ultimately, this tasting indicates that celebrity wines tend to be overpriced and underwhelming. Unless there are some celebrities (or websites) paying tribute to celebrities, clearly put effort into their products; most use their bottles as another marquee for the big name. Unless you're a diehard fan, my advice is ignore the flashy names and seek out for the real stars of the wine world.

SEE

**THE MOST FABULOUS CONTEST
IN THE HISTORY OF GAMES!**

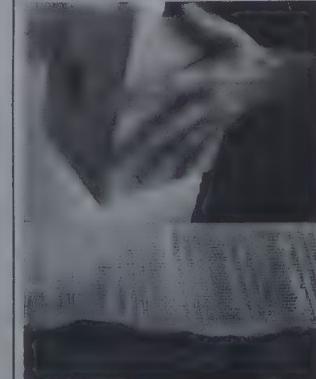
Play Vinyl Hunter, name the MYSTERY MUSICAL ARTIST & WIN!

THIS WEEK'S PRIZE

\$55!

Clockwork Orange Juice 7-9 a.m. Wed's on CJSR 88.5

LATITUDE 53 CONTEMPORARY VISUAL CULTURE IS PLEASED TO PRESENT



EXHIBITIONS
CONTINUE TO FEB 9

SONIC CUBES
CATHERINE BECHARD and
SABIN HUDON

ProjEx Room:
LAND RE:PRODUCTION
MEGANN CHRISTENSEN

LATITUDE 53 CONTEMPORARY VISUAL CULTURE: 10248 106 ST. EDMONTON AB T5J 1K1
PH: (780) 423-5353. FAX: (780) 424-9117. WWW.LATITUDE53.CA | INFO@LATITUDE53.CA
GALLERIES OPEN: TUE-FRI 10AM-6PM AND SAT 12-5. CLOSED SUN, MON AND HOLIDAYS

LATITUDE 53
CONTEMPORARY VISUAL CULTURE

Alberta Foundation for the Arts

edmonton arts council

Canada Council for the Arts

Conseil des arts du Canada

EVENTS

THE CARROT ARTS MARKET EVERY SAT. 11 AM-2 PM.

THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE 9351-108 AVE. Artists and artisans from the community and beyond share unique gifts, crafts, and artwork. Info: www.thecarrot.ca. CHINESE NEW YEAR CARNIVAL FEB 8 & 11 11 AM-4 PM CITY HALL #101 CHURCHILL SQUARE. Featuring presentations of the Lion Dance, Dragon Dance, Martial Arts, carnival games, crafts, food and other performances. Info: 428-4035.

CHINESE NEW YEAR GALA FEB 11 5 PM. WINNSPEAR CENTRE #4 CHURCHILL SQUARE Banquet and show. Tickets \$60. Tables \$110. Info: 428-4035.

EDMONTON OIL KINGS SKILL WORKSHOP FEB 12, 6 PM. ASPEN GARDENS COMMUNITY LEAGUE, 1205-39A AVE. Skill workshop and shinny hockey for young players age 9-11. Autograph and photograph opportunity. Free admission. FORK PEST JAN 20-24 & FEB 3-7 VARIOUS LOCATIONS. Original fare presents 17 Edmonton's independent restaurants offering a multi-course menu for \$20-\$35. To view menus and participating restaurants go to www.originalfare.com.

FULL MOON CAFE FEB 16, 7:30 PM. LION'S PARK CLUBHOUSE A Family Day long weekend event. Musicians, poets, artists. All ages welcome. Info: Solange at 791-5355.

THE GOOD MEDICINE FILM FESTIVAL MONTHLY SCREENINGS. STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, 101 WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE FEB 10, 2 pm. "WIR". Various health related films presented throughout the semester. Info: www.ahm.med.ulberta.ca.

ICE WHYTE UNTIL JAN 27, 10 AM-10 PM. 85 AVE. & 104 ST. Outdoor festival showcasing ice sculptures, ice castles and slides, kids workshops, and more winter activities. Admission by cash donation.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2008 JAN 28-FEB 1 U OF A CAMPUS "Addressing Global Challenges: 100 Years and Beyond." Over 100 free lectures, workshops, films, and performing and visual arts celebrating international and cultural diversity throughout the week. Info: 492-2692 or www.international.ulberta.ca.

MCDOUGALL UNITED CHURCH WOMEN'S BREAKFAST JAN 26, 9:30 AM. McDougall United Church, 10025-101 ST. With psychologist, scholar, author, and traveller, Dr. Evangeline Rand. Ticket \$8, register in advance at 478-1818.

MULTILINGUAL STORYTELLING CELEBRATION JAN 29, 7 PM. CITY HALL #101 CHURCHILL SQUARE Celebration of Family Literacy Day. Special presentation of the folk story, "The Stranger Who Snores" retold and recorded in 30 languages. Free admission.

SOUL FOOD DINNER FEB 9, 6 PM. LONDONDERRY COMMUNITY CENTRE, 14224-74 ST. The 7th Annual Soul Food Dinner commemorates Black History Month. Tickets \$30 Adults, \$25 Youth and \$10 Children at 468-6520.

MEETINGS

ACOA EVERY MON. INCLUDING HOLIDAYS, 7:30 PM-8:30 PM, BRAESIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 101 BERNARD DR., ST. ALBERT. CORNER OF 101 AVENUE & 101 STREET. TON CHURCHILL AVENUE USE NORTH ENTRANCE. Twelve-step support program for adult children of alcoholics and dysfunctional families.

ALBERTA ENTREPRENEURS' ASSOCIATION 3RD TUE EVERY MONTH, 5:30-9 PM. THE FACULTY CLUB, 11435 84 ST. DR. Pre-register at www.acaa.ca.CINE-CLUB D'EDMONTON 1ST MON. EVERY MONTH, 7 PM. AUDITORIUM ON CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN, U of A. Donations accepted. Info: www.cineclub-edmonton.com.EDMONTON NATURE CLUB 1ST MONTHLY MEETINGS, ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 12045-102 AVE. Informative meetings with guest speakers. Info: Mark, 430-7134 or mark@telusplanet.net.ENTREPRENEURS' CLUB TOASTMASTERS CLUB 1MON (TUE AFTER LONG WEEKENDS), NOON. ROYAL GLENORA CLUB, RIVER VALLEY. Learn communication and leadership skills. Buffet lunch, supportive and fun-filled environment. Info: Dan Robien, 463-5165 or drotien@shaw.ca.FRED BROADSTOCK POOL REDEVELOPMENT JAN 24, 2-6 PM. BRITANNIA YOUNGSTOWN COMMUNITY HALL, 5997 105 AVE. The public is invited to provide feedback on the proposed redevelopment. *•* Fred Broadstock Outdoor swimming pool. City of Edmonton staff will provide information and answer questions. Info: Mike at 944-0424.

FORWARD THINKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB TUE, 7 PM. STRATHcona COUNTY BUILDING, 1001 SHERWOOD DRIVE, SHERWOOD PARK. Build self-confidence and communicate. Info: 922-3835.

FRENCH CONVERSATION THU. ALLIANCE FRANCAISE, #202, 2627 RUE MARIE-ANNE GABOURY. Info: Godfrey, 469-0399.

FRENCH MEETUP Informal conversation group, all levels of French speakers welcome. Info: french meetup.com/236 or 720-5169.

GREAT EXPEDITIONS, HOSTEL TRAVEL 2ND MON EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM. HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL, 10640-81 AVE. Everyone welcome. For presentation schedule or info, Sylvia, 454-6216 or 455-6741.

HIP MAMAS MEET-UP Young mothers and their babies meet several times a week. Free to join, plenty of friends to be made. Info: <http://hipmamas.meetup.com/151/>.

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM. WOODY'S, 2ND FL, 1772 JASPER AVE. Cross-dressers, transsexuals, friends, and supporters meet. Info: 387-3343.

IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB 2ND & 4TH MON EVERY MONTH, 8 PM. ALLEGDALE SCHOOL, 6415-106 ST. Informative

presentations: speakers, workshops, outings plus monthly and year-end competitions. Photographic enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Info: www.imagescc.ca or Sheila, 469-9776. INNOVATORS' NETWORKING CLUB TUE, 11:30 AM-1 PM. CAFE SELECT SOUTH, 105 ST & 101 AVE. Business networking group mixer, open to all membership drive. Info: Wayne, 463-8240 or waynewebb@hotmail.ca.NORTHWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB THU, 10:45 AM. KINGSWAY, 4111. Improve public speaking and communications skills in a fun and educational environment. Info: 465-3934 or www.northwoodtoastmasters.org.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES Weekly drop-in meetings, providing resources and information on self-esteem, mental health, and employment. Men welcome to attend. Info: 456-5930.

TOURETTE SYNDROME SUPPORT 1ST WED EVERY MONTH (Oct-June) 7 PM. ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD, 8525-101 ST. NORTH DOOR. Meeting for T1s adults and parents of T1s kids. Info: 1-866-972-9764.

UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED, 1-8:30 PM. RM 601, NORQUEST COLLEGE, 10215-108 ST. Improve listening, speaking, and overall communication skills. Info: Roger 454-3720, Theresa 488-4098, or adamsk@telus.net.

WEST-END TOASTMASTER CLUB TUE, 6:45-9 PM. JASPER PLACE LIBRARY, 1010-155 ST. Friendly environment of personal progress and mutual support. Info: 455-5424.

WOW-WILD ON WORDS THREE BANANAS CAFE, CHURCHILL SQUARE An eclectic creative writing group welcoming both professional and amateur writers. Suggested donation \$10. Monthly meetings. Info: feelgoodbewel.com or info@feelgoodbewel.com.YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVERY MONTH, 5 PM. REMEDY CAFE, 8631-109 ST. For discussion topics and suggested readings go to www.facebook.com/group.php?group_id=359915104.**HEALTH & WELLNESS**CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 11205-101 ST., 479-1999. A range of services for members. *•* The Native Community, including a free community lunch Fridays at noon, employment and Public Health information, counseling referrals and one-on-one support, AADAC & Legal Aid referrals, low cost or free beds, housing and clothing referrals. Info: 470-1999.

CITY LISTINGS cont'd pg 18

buy 2 sale items and receive a 3rd sale item* for free.

january 24- february 3

* of equal or lesser value

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mylookKarla Zeise | Recruiter, Government of Alberta
By FAWNDA MITHRUSH

Where: Interviewing new recruits downtown—bright and early.

Hair: I get my hair done at Shampoo (107 St. and 103 Ave.) by R.J.

Shopping: This trench with the fur collar is from the Gap. The shirt is from Mexx, and my scarf from London. These pants are from The Limited, I got them in Vegas. The shoes are Browns. My bag is from Aldo.

Hobbies: I like to shop, anywhere really. I'm more of a window-shopper, unless I have the money. I like watching movies, and being outside... and being on vacation (laughs). I like to wear what I feel comfortable in, and what fits my body. A lot of those trends out there, I might take inspiration from some of them, but they're not all for me.

CITY LISTINGS from pg 17

CLUB LULU LULULEMON, 10544-82 AVE. Weekly activities to get you moving. Info: www.lululemon.com. 435-9965 or whyte-community@lululemon.ca.

CONSTELLATION EVERY 1ST & 3RD WED, 7 PM, 10431-37 AVE. A unique healing process, transforming past burdens into positive affirmations. Info: 967-9162 or constellationcurrents.ca.

GENTLE YOGA RADNA YOGA 9946-87 AVE. Weekly classes in small group settings. Sunday: Satsang (by donation). Call for schedule and fees. Info: 432-3363 or www.radnya.org.

LIVING POSITIVE TUE, 7-9 PM, SUITE 500, 9902-105 ST. Confidential space where POZ people can discuss and share common issues of concern. A peer-driven AIDS service organization, providing direct support to people living with HIV in Alberta. Info: 488-5768 or edmlivingpositive.ca.

LOTUS SOUL GYM PUBLIC ART STUDIO 10569-92 AVE. Multidisciplinary yoga studio offering drop-in and registered classes in hatha, vinyasa flow, Pilates, yoga for seniors, pre-natal, postnatal, mom & me, and partner workshops. All levels welcome. Info: www.lotussoulgym.com. 434-9642 or info@lotussoulgym.com.

MADELEINE SANJAM FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH, 9 AM-5 PM. FACILITATE SAINT-JEAN, 8406-91 ST, RM 3-18. An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training on HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. French, English and African languages. Admission free for members. Membership \$10. Info: 480-7332.

MS ACTIVE NOW #150, 9405-50 ST. Recreation and physical wellness programs. Info: 471-3034.

OPEN YOUR MIND GARDEN SAMTEN LING TIBETAN BUDDHIST MEDITATION SOCIETY 14040-101 ST. Meditation and Buddhist teachings by resident teacher: Tibetan Buddhist monk Kusukh Lobzang Chimephoe. Beginners Tues 7 pm. Intermediate Wed 7 pm. Advanced practices Sun 11 am. Info: 479-0049 or www.gardensamtenling.org.

RADHA YOGA VARIOUS LOCATIONS Classes include gentle hatha, hidden gem age/reflexive hatha, dream yoga, kundalini/ power of choice and meditation. Info: 432-3313.

RAJA YOGA MEDITATION #208, 1032-105 ST. In association with Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization. Info: www.bkws.org or 425-1050.

RIVER VALLEY RUNNERS TUE & THU, 5:15-6:45 PM, RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 9231-100 AVE. Coaching trained for running on Edmonton's extensive river valley trails. Includes warm up and cooldown. Info: www.rivervalleyrunners.net or 447-1999.

TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY THU, 6:30-7:30 PM, ALLENDALE COMMUNITY HALL, 6310-105A ST. Weigh loss support and information. First meeting is free. Info: TOPS4990@gmail.com.

TRANQUILITY MEDITATION WED, 7 PM, 10502-70 AVE. Tibetan tradition. Free, beginners welcome. Instruction available. Info: Anna Kun Sungsoo, 633-6157 or www.karmaphashling.org.

VEGETARIANS OF ALBERTA Monthly events, potluck dinners, and dine-out nights for vegetarians and vegans. Monthly newsletter includes articles on health, environment, and compassion. Info: events@voafa.ca or www.voafa.ca.

LEARNING

AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES 1025 JASPER AVE. Movements of the African-Caribbean dance ensemble, offers a variety of African dance classes at all levels. Info: 415-5211 or www.movementsdance.com.

ARGENTINE TANGO CLASSES THU (JAN-APR), 7 PM.

ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD SCHOOL, 8252-101 ST. With Cristina and Vincenzo. Info: 905-8505 or members. shaw.ca/tangoplus/home.htm

BEDOUIN BEATS MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE 2ND FLOOR, 1216 JASPER AVE. For all skill levels. Info: 722-9773 or denise@bedouinbeats.com.

DROP-IN ART FOR THE ARTIST AT HEART PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY, 19 PERSTON ST., ST. ALBERT. Info: 460-4310 or ab@stalbert.ca.

EDMONTON CHESS CLUB Learning and playing opportunities for students and families at Edmonton Chess Club and other locations in the city. Info: 474-2318 or rovingchessnsr@shaw.ca.

EDMONTON WEAVERS' Guild Offering classes on weaving, spinning and various workshops. Info: Sonja, 425-1152 or ew@weaving.com.

EDMONTON WRITERS' CENTRE STANLEY A. MILLER LIBRARY, #7 CHURCHILL SQUARE A creative space for writers of all genres and levels. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-9 pm. Sat 9 am-6 pm. Sun 1-5 pm. Info: 496-1070.

FAVA WORKSHOPS 5 PM. Film and Video Arts Society offers one-night workshops twice a month in a variety of media activities. Info: www.fava.ca or 429-1657.

FLAMENCO LESSONS SUN & MON, 7:30-9:30 PM. Justin and Oscar Loso Garcia teach both flamenco dance & guitar. Info: 1-800-349-4843 or cgarcia@telusplanet.net.

HARCOURT HOUSE ART CLASSES JAN-APR A variety of low-cost classes specializing in drawing, pastels, painting, and other mediums. taught by professional artists and educators. Info: www.harcourt-house.ca or 416-4180.

LEARNING CENTER LITERACY ASSOCIATION #200, 1016-105 AVE. Recruiting volunteers to help adults develop literacy and math skills on an ongoing basis. Info: May, 429-0675.

KARATE INSTRUCTION Classes for kids over 10 years, and adults. Info: www.manatasiowin.com or 975-6910.

KITA NAITO JAPANESE DRUMMING WORKSHOPS Schedules, info, and registration: www.kitanaito.ca or 431-0300.

MARS HILL CENTRE #8318-104 ST. 100-2027 classes and workshops on the recovery process. Registration on a sliding scale, based on participant's income. Info: www.marshallcentre.com.

MEDIA MAG WORKSHOPS EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, #600, 9990 JASPER AVE. Info: www.mediamag.ca or 695-5675.

METRO CONTINUING EDUCATION 8205-90 AVE. Courses start in Jan/Feb. Subjects include drama, fitness, sports, massage, spirituality, and more. Class and schedules available in the free Metro Class Catalogue. Available throughout the city. Info: 428-1111 or www.metrocontinuingeducation.ca.

MINERA MOSAICS ART CLASSES CITY ARTS CENTRE, 10943-84 AVE. A range of mosaic art classes for beginners and intermediates. Info: www.mineramosaics.com or 439-1957.

MOMMY & ME BELLY DANCING CLASSES Belly dance classes and parties for adults and children. Info: 428-5571 or bella.danza@telus.net.

PRESCHOOL INDOOR SOCCER SAT (NOV-JUN), 9:30 AM-NOON. SACRED HEART SCHOOL GYM, 95 1ST & 108 AVE. Ages 2-7, girls and boys. Basic soccer skills, taught by FIFA certified coach. Info: Tony, 420-0760.

WRITER'S GUILD OF ALBERTA SEMINAR JAN 30, 7 PM, 2ND FL. PROGRAM ROOM, STRATHCONA PUBLIC LIBRARY, 8331-104 ST. "How to Find a Publisher for your Book" A panel will publishing experts including Linda D. Cameron, Douglas Garoupe, and Faye Souers getting a book into the hands of an appropriate publisher. WGA members free, non-members \$5. Info: writersguild.ca.

QUEER

AGAPE EDUCATION #1 OF A CAMPUS Focus group on sex and gender differences in education and culture. Pre-service and practicing teachers, community members welcome. Info: andie.grace@alberta.ca or 492-0777.

EPS/LGBTQ LIASION COMMITTEE THE EPS/LGBTQ Liason Committee is composed of a variety of concerned lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, queer, allied community members, and police officers. Email questions or concerns to eps@tphq.ca. All inquiries treated with confidentiality and respect. To report a hate or bias motivated crime, contact the EPS Hate & Bias Crime Unit. 471-3489.

INSIDE OUT OF A Campus-based organization for LGBT faculty, graduate, academic & staff. Straight allies welcome. Monthly meetings. Info: kwells@ualberta.ca or mronham@ualberta.ca.

PRIDE CENTRE 9540-71 AVE, 4324-4346. Drop-in, library, and community internet services available. Subscribe to the Centre's newsletter at the website. Hours: Tues-Fri, 1pm-10 pm. Sat, 1-6:30 pm. Info: www.pridecentrefeedmonton.org.

TEAM EDMONTON A volunteer operated, non-profit society for members and friends of the GLBT community, offering well organized and fun sporting events and other recreational activities within a positive social framework. Info: www.teamedmton.ca.

WOMONSPACE BOARD Non-profit lesbian organization.

Edmonton and surrounding area. Organized monthly meetings. Memberships available, including monthly newsletter. Confidentiality assured. Info: www.gaycanada.com/womospace or 482-1794.

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“A LOT OF CHRISTIAN BANDS... THEY DON'T EVEN **LIVE THE LIFE**
THEY CLAIM, BUT WE DO, SO I THINK WE GET A LOT OF
RESPECT FROM BOTH SIDES.

-GUITARIST JEFFREY DEPOYSTER, OF THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

PREVIEW - CHRISTIAN METAL • BY ZOLTAN VARADI | 495 words

Men Of Faith And Volume



Golf, Anyone? | The golf-loving, Republican-voting, God-fearing Alice Cooper. PHOTO SUPPLIED



Where's Meryl Streep? | Did The Devil Wears Prada consider the difficulty of Googling their name? PHOTO SUPPLIED

The Last Temptation Of Alice

ALICE COOPER IS JUST ONE OF SEVERAL GOD-FEARING ROCKERS WHO SAVE THEIR HELL-RAISING FOR THE STAGE

The pairing of the words "Christian" and "rock" can always be relied on to get the heathens heaving (and heading for the nearest exit), but seeing as how popular Western music was born from the bosom of many a God-fearing blues player, it's not really all that surprising that the seeds of faith can be found in the even the most seemingly secular forms of rock 'n' roll rebellion. After all, it couldn't be the "devil's music" if God wasn't in the picture somewhere.

Here's a list of just a few mainstream musicians who've chosen to err on the side of the almighty:

ALICE COOPER

Coop's conversion came late in the game. Like Little Richard and Al Green before him, the excesses of fame began to weigh heavily on his conscience (and his liver), leading him to seek the Lord's help as he put the plug in the jug in 1990. Since then, he's gone on to found the Rock Solid Foundation, which gives to charitable causes and provides college scholarships to Christian students.

SUFJAN STEVENS

A grammar school graduate of the Harbor Light Christian School in his native Michigan, Stevens obviously took his lessons to heart when he released 2004's *Seven Swans*, a folk-rock foray into the godly light which tackled subjects like Christ's transfiguration. *Spin* memorably described the album as being "like Elliott Smith after 10 years of Sunday school."

LENNY KRAVITZ

Lenny's pseudo-flower-child proclamations of love for all go beyond a self-interest in his libido; he was baptized at the age of 13 and has been a devout follower since, even going so far as to have the inscription "My Heart Belongs to Jesus Christ" tattooed on his back.

U2

Those earnest boys from Dublin laced their early anthems with Christian themes, most notably on "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For" from *The Joshua Tree*. Then they got all ironic and thus began that long, hard fall from grace that culminated in a thud rivaling that of Lucifer's: namely, when they counted the ticket sales to the abysmal Pop Mart tour. Then they started saving the world again.

OZZY OSBOURNE

Way back in '88, the Prince of Darkness himself, Ozzy Osbourne, appeared on one of those goofy Geraldo Rivera prime-time specials, this one entitled *Exposing Satan's Underground*, and surprised everyone by declaring himself a Christian. Well, just about everyone: many an rock scholar has noted the God-fearing (as opposed to Satan-worshipping) strain in Black Sabbath's early material—in particular the track "After Forever" from their third LP, *Master of Reality*, wherein the Ozzman weighs in with the following: "I think it was true it was people like you that crucified Christ/I think it is sad the opinion you had was the only one voiced/Will you be so sure when your day is near, say you don't believe?/You had the chance but you turned it down, now you can't retrieve."

SLAYER

Okay, not really. But somehow, after 20-plus years of belting out some of the most overtly Satanic material on record, lead singer Tom Araya maintains that he's just a good old Catholic boy. Two years ago, he told the *Edmonton Sun*, "I'm well-rounded: I have a really strong belief system and these are just words and they'll never interfere with what I believe and how I feel."

The Devil Wears What?

WITH THEIR CHRISTIAN BELIEFS, THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA HAVE SEVERAL CROSSES TO BEAR

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

w/ Silverstein. Protest the Hero. Ill Scarlet. Wed-Thu, Jan 30-31. Starlite Room (10030-102 St). Info: 428-7827

Christian metalcore act The Devil Wears Prada may not have earned the keys to the kingdom just yet, but they have peered into an abyss and seen sights unimaginable to the rest of us.

For instance, last summer when they took part in the Sounds of the Underground tour, they were afforded the opportunity to hang backstage with GWAR, sans that band's outlandish costumes. "They look like a bunch of middle-aged metal dudes, I guess," reveals TDWP guitarist Jeremy DePoyer with a laugh. "They're pretty nice guys."

So, it seems, are the Prada boys. (Yes, they took their name from the book that was a thinly veiled account of an unfortunate assistant to prickly *Vogue* editor Anna Wintour. The anti-materialist bent of the title appealed to them.)

That pleasant demeanour could account for the Pradas' meteoric rise in mainstream circles. Although they were barely out of high school when they landed their first record deal (actually, two of them had yet to matriculate when they embarked on their debut tour), the young band—its members are all between the ages of 19 and 21—have had some pretty sweet opportunities. Besides the Sounds tour, they also recently played to thousands in a jaunt through Mexico, and are prep-

ping for a plum spot on the annual Warped tour this summer.

"There's no way we should have got as popular as fast as we have, and, for me, I think that there's something else there," says DePoyer, giving due credit for their success to their higher power. That said, though, DePoyer says they're not trying to beat anyone over the head with their faith-based message and instead are just trying to offer an alternative to "all the negativity" out there.

If anything, opposition to the band hasn't come from the secular colleagues they share stages with, but within certain corners of the Christian community itself that just can't reconcile religion with heavy metal. "We've had kids that are like, 'I wanted to buy your CD or come to your show and my parents won't let me—they won't believe me that it's a Christian band.' I think when people get to know us they know that we're genuine. A lot of Christian bands... you hear that they are, but then you go on tour with them or see them backstage or something and you're like, 'Ah, okay...' They don't even live the life they claim, but we do, so I think we get a lot of respect from both sides."

On that note, DePoyer says that sidestepping the excesses of the backstage area has only solidified his beliefs—not that it's been easy. "It definitely has strengthened my faith just in terms of being able to face temptations, not just in a faith-based way but in your own personal beliefs—what's cool with you, what's not cool with you—has certainly been put to the test on the road where anything goes. It's tough."

PREVIEW • SELF-TAUGHT • BY ZOLTAN VARADI | 622 words

Build It Up Just To Break It Down

**FOR CALGARY'S JANE FOOKS,
BECOMING A ROCK STAR
ACTUALLY MANAGED TO BRING
ORDER TO HER LIFE**

JANE VAIN AND THE DARK MATTER

w/ We Are Wolves, Sat, Jan 26 (9pm, The Pawn Shop
(10549-82 Ave).

It's one of the most common narratives in the history of art: personal reinvention and aesthetic discovery born of that womb of misery known as spiritual malaise.

But as is the case with anyone with both the drive and talent to kick free from the darkness that's part and parcel of the human experience, Jaime Fooks' musical expression of

that journey proves that creativity transcends cliché. Especially not if the toil bears fruit as beguiling that of Fooks and her collaborator Dillon Whitfield's *Love Is Where the Smoke Is*, their debut album as Jane Vain and the Dark Matter.

"The whole reason I got into [music] was because I had to figure out how to function in the real world," says Fooks, a twenty-something former art student and current native of Calgary. Although she's somewhat vague on the details, she explains that about three and a half years ago, after emerging from a tumultuous and isolated phase in her life, she decided to quit drinking and try to reintegrate into a more productive stream of society.

"For a really long period of time," she says, "I wasn't part of [life] and I was having a lot of trouble. It was really hard. It's funny because the whole recording process is so structured and kind of formulaic—there's nothing that chaotic about it once you kind of know what you're doing. It provided the foundation for me to just kind of figure out what the hell was going on."

Fooks, who says she was "incapable of playing the piano completely" and able to strum only a few basics on the acoustic guitar, began fooling around with electronic programming, composing simple MIDI tracks that would become the basis of her band-to-be's repertoire. But although the software she used allowed her to experiment with a wide sonic palette, things got complicated when she had to return to the compositions and figure out how to recreate what she had made.

Where There's Smoke, There's Desire? | According to the new disc by Jane Vain and the Dark Matter, *Love Is Where the Smoke Is*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

"I had to build all the tracks note by note—just track over track over track—and then I had to learn how to play the stuff after the songs were completed. The whole process was completely backwards. By then it became apparent that we were going to have to play live, I still didn't know how to play anything. I had an album, pretty much, but I couldn't play anything."

Fooks estimated it took her about 50 performances before she could face a crowd unapologetically, but her creations stirred a buzz nonetheless, attracting a variety of players from Calgary's music scene who ended contributing to the recording

in process.

Now, some three years later, Fooks and Whitfield are getting ready to drop the completed product into the public, although thanks to their shows and tracks released online, *Love Is Where the Smoke Is* has already developed a sizeable interest among followers of indie pop.

And for good reason: despite her skimpy musical credentials, Fooks and friends have crafted a moody (some have called it pop noir) and assured sound built on quirky sonic textures that nicely offset Fooks' plaintive, straightforward laments, which are made all the more effective by her rich but restrained vocals.

Now there's a cross-Canada tour—the works, and hopefully Fooks will begin to reap some dividends from the painstaking process of piecing the album together. She certainly sounds confident about the future, and, now that she knows her way around a recording a bit better, she predicts the next one won't be such a long time coming.

"I've been working on this one for so long, that I started another [in-cord] just to get my mind off the frustrations of this first one. It was just so much work that I started writing new songs that I knew wouldn't be on the album because they wouldn't be ready."

HOT TICKETS • MUST-SEE SHOWS



Emerson Letters • (Emo) • Avenue Skatepark, Jan 26 • \$3 before 8pm, \$6 after

Yeah, yeah, it seems mean-spirited to slap someone with that most pejorative of genre labels: emo, but we all forget that there's a reason the genre exists in the first place. Sometimes rocks—Regina's Matt Goud is a case in point, pulling double duty as a singer/guitarist for both The Emerson Letters and punk rockers Means. His one-man show at Avenue Skatepark will showcase a more acoustic, singer-songwriter vibe. With Sink This City, Team Captain, David Moir, The Line Atlantic, and Casey Barkley.



William Joseph • (Swoon-worthy crooner) • Winspear Centre, Jan 27 • \$41.50

Oh, he's so dreamy. But there are other good reasons besides dreaminess to see Joseph's swoon at the Winspear: he grew up listening to Queensryche and Rachmaninoff and Phil Collins. That's called range, folks. So we can expect his show to be something like a rockin' banjo/piano pop concert? Apparently. He's also into Ultimate Frisbee, and his cat is named Spanky Swoon.



Shitguts • (Blackest of black metal) • Mead Hall, Jan 26 • \$8

Select posts from Shitguts' MySpace message board:

"Yes! Lord Bonerack, the first battle has been fought! but we must not take anything away from the others bands. I was most pleased to see you there warrior, we will support each other!" —Lord Adamantium

"Hey dudes! fucking awesome show last night! might I say really enjoyed the diabolical diabolical siege weaponry, keep it bloody, keep it fuckin' metal!" —Lord Moregor

"You guys are so awesome that I will help you with your 'equiptment' lol. Bonerack will marry me!!!!!!!" —Sarah



CAT POWER

Jukebox
(Universal/TBD)

★★★★★

Cat Power's 2000 album *The Covers Record* was proof that indie rock's greatest chanteuse (eat your heart out, Feist) is a brilliant musical interpreter. And her new covers record *Jukebox* is no

less ambitious. Opening with a slow, lounge-y rendition of "New York, New York" Cat Power (née Chan Marshall), breathing new life into a song worn thin as a dime by familiarity—if Sinatra's classic version is a jaunty stroll down Broadway, arm in arm with a beautiful girl, Marshall's is a lonely walk down dark, drizzly side streets.

After that we have a raw, barely controlled reinterpretation of one of Marshall's own songs ("Metal Heart," off *Moon Pix*), a new song (the beautiful, Dylan-inspired "Song to Bobby") and brilliant covers of The Highwaymen's "Silver Stallion," Billie Holiday's "Don't Explain," and Hank Williams' "Ramblin' Man." And then there are a few other tunes done capably but not quite so impressively, including Dylan's own "I Believe in You" and Joni Mitchell's "Blue." Featuring Marshall's own band, *Jukebox* feels more engaging and direct than her last album, *The Greatest*, where she was backed up by members of Booker T. and the MG's and Al Green's old band (who put in guest appearances here). Maybe a little sub-par by Marshall's sky-high standards, but *Jukebox* is still a must-have for fans—and anyone who wants a breezy intro to a great artist.

MATTHEW HALLIDAY

THE RAVEONETTES

Lust Lust Lust

(N/A)

★★★★★



Load up your home page for the Vice magazine website and you'll notice what appears to be a review—nay, an endorsement—of The Raveonettes' new single, "Ally Walk with Me," which calls the Danish duo the harbingers of a new '90s revival, thanks largely to the band's stunning embrace of trip hop.

Huh? One only needs to take a cursory spin of The Raveonettes' new release to hear that it's a note-for-note replica of all their previous efforts, which are note-for-note nods to the Jesus and Mary Chain's own worship at the altar of the Velvet Underground. Hell, they've even got a song with "Candy" in the title.

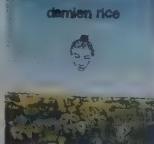
While I'll commend the band for their Ramones-like aversion to sonic variety, I'd also like to send a resounding WTF? to their label, which just happens to be... Vice. Not even Rolling Stone, long the industry standard for stick-up reviews, would stoop to such a crass blurring of editorial and advertising content.

ZOLTAN VARADI

DAMINI RICE

Live From the Union Chapel
(DRM/Vector)

★★★★★



"Among the afflictions/With which I've been marked/I'm not so pretentious/And not quite so dark."

Those are the opening lyrics of Damini Rice's "Then Go," but he does little to back up his claim on this previously unreleased recording of a 2003 London concert by the Irish singer-songwriter, then flush with the success of his 2002 album *O*, the disappointing reviews of his followup *9* still three years in the future. The songs are moody, monotonous tales of shattered romances and abused women, featuring lots of keening vocals and mournful cello.

If you already own *O*, there's not much compelling you to pick this disc up—five of the eight tracks are *O* carryovers, basically unchanged aside from a little more breathy fervour. The three new tracks are unremarkable, except for the way his cover version of Nina Simone's "Be My Husband," with its simple, pithy lyrics, makes Rice's songwriting even more maddeningly vague by comparison.

PAUL MATWYCHUK

LAZERSNAKE

Oceanic
(local independent)

★★★★★



This impressive debut from Edmonton's eccentric party posse is stupid yet smart: it's only 21 minutes long and moves too quickly to bore. Nine tracks under three minutes each keep things fresh, avoiding the dance-punk tendency to keep DJs (and nobody else) happy by needlessly padding tracks out to five minutes and beyond.

I'm tempted to overthink Lazernsnake—The Residents, Devo, and Red Krayola come to mind as touchstones... or Pavement jamming with Jean-Michel Jarre. But the last thing Lazernsnake wants to encourage is deep thought, judging from the sarcastic, shallow stream of consciousness that flows through "Omnibox," the hilarious starter "K.E.", and the dadaist drum jam "Anticipation."

The first time I saw Lazernsnake they were odd and charming—but not very good. The second time they were absolutely terrible. Nice to see the boys were able to weird their way to a higher place.

PROSPER PRODANIUK

ROAD STORIES • CHORAL MUSIC GETS A BLACK EYE | 52 words

A Chorus of Disapproval

EAR TO THE ASPHALT ANN VRIEND
**MISSSED NOTES AND SOME
HOTHEADED BARITONES
TEMPORARILY TAKE THE
"PRO" OUT OF PRO CORO**

This week's road story was originally supposed to come from Silverstein (MySpace genre: emo/screamo), but the band is currently in Japan, and difficult to reach. So I made a 180-degree genre turn and called David Garber, administrative director and former singer in Pro Coro Canada, one of Canada's top professional classical choirs.

Now, classical musicians are usually thought to be less emo/screamo and more, to use Garber's words, "cultured, polite, well-behaved, and leading a somewhat sheltered life." But light classical musicians can be just as "refined" as anyone else.

In the beginning years of ProCoro, says Garber, the choir was less accomplished than it is today, despite having an ambitious "taskmaster" conductor. "We were doing some really difficult repertoire," Garber says, "but sometimes the notes... just wouldn't get corrected. For some reason the bass section, of which I was a member, was the stupidest. We were the poorest readers we always got

dumped on by the conductor, and the rest of the choir would get impatient with us. So we were always self-conscious about that."

At one point the choir was in Toronto, in a dress rehearsal in a big cathedral, still trying to perfect an extremely difficult contemporary classical piece, and the conductor was still not very happy with the bass section: "Of course, you don't ever want to admit you sang a wrong note," Garber says. "You look at the person next to you" [Sounds a bit like what people do when they let out an accidental fart. At least, that's what I've heard.]

Garber continues the story: "Two baritones, who were in great competition to prove they weren't the ones singing the wrong notes, started getting a bit angry with each other. The 'You sang that!' No, you sang that!" got to be a bit more vicious and heated, and then they broke out into a fistfight right at the front of this church! It flooded the rest of us, not to mention the production staff. It was right before this big national performance, but it was kind of, well, like a hockey fight." Of course, tuxedos have much less padding than hockey equipment. And many more tails.

"Perhaps it shows the kind of pressure classical musicians can be under," Garber says. "And we all know what musicians, no matter what genre do under pressure."

"That night there was a wonderful post-concert reception, and this was the last concert of the tour. There had been early mornings, late nights. The choir was exhausted, so almost everybody in the tenor section helped themselves to six 12-24-packs of beer; they fully took advantage of the 'help yourself' to a little drink offered by the reception. They were packing up their coats and pockets and putting them anywhere they could."

Probably not what the reception organizers had in mind. But perhaps a little refreshment, and cooler heads, helped resolve the issue that sparked the melee. "The piece was supposed to be a cappella, but the conductor had the pianist accompany us—especially for the bass notes. [However, the fighting vocalists] still had to stand right next to each other and sing together all night."

And that, dear readers, is the difference between battling baritones and brawling hockey players.

ProCoro Canada performs January 27 at the Winspear.

HAGGIS ON SPECIAL ALL DAY

THE ADDRESS TO THE HAGGIS
BY MEMBERS OF THE EDMONTON POLICE PIPE AND DRUM BAND
AT THE ROSE & CROWN PUB ON JANUARY 25
FEATURING A FINE SELECTION OF SINGLE MALT SCOTCHES!

Atomic Really Dropped A Bomb On Me

THE GLOBE-TROTTING, GENRE-HOPPING, ULTRA-PROLIFIC JAZZ MASTERS IN ATOMIC FIND PLENTY OF INSPIRATION ON NORTH AMERICAN SHORES

ATOMIC

Fri, Jan 25 (9pm), Yardbird Suite (102 St & 86 Ave). Tickets available at Ticketmaster.ca or at the door.

Abandoning the respectable circles of Norwegian jazz for post-punk rock in avant-garde Chicago may seem like a strange move for some—but for Atomic bassist Ingebrigt Flaten it makes absolute sense.

"The underground scene here is very interesting—I have drawn a lot of inspiration from Chicago music, the way musicians deal with material," explains the well-regarded double bass player, who for the last two years has set up shop in the Illinois capital. Forsaking the prestige, and the economic rewards, that comes with being one of the Europe's most critically acclaimed musicians might seem a bit puzzling, but Flaten doesn't see it that way.

"It may be a bigger audience in Europe and there's more money for support, but there is just as good an audience here, as well as some great opportunities to work with musicians."

"But there is also no money here," he wryly finishes, "so musicians have to be enthusiastic about what



Jet Lagged | The transglobal Atomic must have a hard time arranging band practice. PHOTO SUPPLIED

they do to play this music."

Enthusiastic would be a good way to describe Atomic, a five-piece Swedish/Norwegian hybrid that now finds itself scattered across different continents. Formed in 1999, the group immediately made a splash in the often stuffy, academic world of Scandinavian jazz by nicking heedlessly from other genres, cross-cut-

ting Don Cherry and Archie Shepp with free jazz and post-rock. Four albums down the line (their 2005 triple album *The Bikini Tapes* being a particular highlight), Atomic are still finding themselves with ample space to move around in.

"There is so much out there," shrugs Flaten, who has found himself collaborating as often with such

avant-garde rockers as Jim O'Rourke and Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore as with more traditional jazz musicians. "Classical music, rock, free jazz—there really isn't any limit as to where we can go."

They've certainly been attempting to go the distance on side projects alone. Atomic trumpet player Magnus Broo also sidelines with

his own quartet and the Stockholm Jazz Orchestra; saxophonist Fredrik Ljungkvist counts the Fredrik Noren Band and Lina Nyberg Group as continuing projects; meanwhile, pianist Havard Wiik makes time for various sideman gigs while leading his own trio. Flaten juggles his own Ingebrigt Håker Flaten Quintet with an almost astonishing number of studio and live projects shoeboxed between his regular work. While Atomic drummer Paal Nilssen and producer Steve Albini (Pixies, Nirvana) he's just finished recording new album with another group, The Thing (notorious for their cover of Lightning Bolt's "Ride the Sky" on 2006's *Action Jazz*), while the new Atomic album is due for release April on Bugge Wesseltoft's jazzlabel.

The eight-day Atomic tour kicks off in Austin, and while Flaten is looking forward to long-awaited performances of their new material, he's equally excited about a few school performances the band will be involved with in a few of the cities they'll be playing in.

"It's important, I think, to play music for the young people," he earnestly explains. "Important, but also fun for the group. This way the audience can hear this music and understand where it comes from—the traditions of jazz—but also to see what it can go."

PREVIEW • LOCAL FOLK • BY AMANDA ASH | 50 words

Lullabies For Adult Minds

LOCAL DUO F&M DEALS IN NIGHTMARES, FUNERAL HOMES, AND FRINGE CHARACTERS

F&M

Sat, Jan 26, 4 pm. No Cover.

Black Dog Freehouse (10425-82 Ave).

For the Edmonton-based duo F&M, the shadowy underbelly of life is what makes the brighter side sparkle.

At the beginning of their 2007 lo-fi charmer *Let Every Light Shine*, Becky Anderson's vocals shimmer with hope and longing, desire and strength. "*Liesl's Song*", the lead-off track, sounds like a child's lullaby, humming with gentle, pillow-y acoustics that could comfort even the fussiest mind. But it's only upon a closer listen that the lyrics scatter as they are with nightmarish images of broken toys and hovering gargoyles, reveal a different meaning.

"[The darker side of life] is part of humanity too," Anderson says over the phone. "To make a go of this life you have to have that. It helps you

get by. You have to laugh at things that may otherwise not be funny. You still have to be respectful, but at the same time it's okay to say something that's a bit off-colour."

Indeed, Anderson says the band made juxtaposing light and dark elements of reality the guiding vision for the entire record. "*Liesl's Song*" was inspired by Liesl Vitzliputzi, one of the main characters in Robertson Davies' three-volume CanLit staple *The Deptford Trilogy*. Liesl is a disfigured 16-year-old girl who lives in a castle amongst millions of broken toys. One day a traveling magician working as a mechanic comes to mend the trinkets. In a moment of passion the girl jumps on the man and rapes him, which is only the first episode in a memorably awkward love story.

Anderson and her husband, band-mate, and co-songwriter Ryan have a healthier relationship—albeit one marked by a wicked sense of humour. Their band name, for instance, comes from a funeral home they both lived near during different points in their lives. "Ryan and I used to live really close to Fosters &

McGarvey, and actually both of us at different times in our lives thought that was a funny name for a band," Anderson says. "And then we realized that the guys from Fosters & McGarvey would actually sue us."

Humour is the common denominator in the Andersons' songs, but they each find their inspiration in different places. Fantastic tales—such as those found in Robertson Davies' books—are Becky's muse, whereas Ryan tends to be drawn to real-life stories. "Both of us write from our experiences," Becky explains. "Ryan works in a treatment centre with people who are on the fringes, so a lot of his songs have a darkness that develop in them. He's very much engaged in real life. But with my writing, I tend to write the more typical singer-songwriter stuff about love and spiritual things, and a lot of it came from when I did my master's thesis [in Soviet rock music]. I read a lot and I found myself gravitating towards the darker characters, those fringe voices of society. And that's the idea of *Let Every Light Shine*: to let the darker side of life shine."



Shadowy Lyrics | F&M's sound is sweet, but their verses may surprise you. PHOTO SUPPLIED

LIVE MUSIC

ALTERNATIVE
SEX PARTY NEW CITY / Lazersnake and guests.

BLUES & ROOTS

GUITARMAGEDDON BLUES ON WHYTE.
JAY ANTHONY WILLIS QUARTET HULBERT'S.

JAZZ

ANDREW GLOVER FOUR ROOMS.
DENNIS BEGORAY JULIAN'S PIANO BAR.

POP & ROCK

JASON GREELEY THE ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL.

STU BENDALL THE URBAN LOUNGE.

DIS/CLUB NIGHTS

BRIDE OF BINGO NEW CITY. Every Thursday.

DJ HARRY JAMES THE DOCKS Every Thursday.

ILLOVE BOSS NEW CITY LIKwid LOUNGE w/ Dexter Nebula &

Anarchy Adam. Every Thursday.

ELECTRO EDUCATION BALCONY VODKA BAR w/ DJ Lathebeam, trip hop, club lounge, electro & IDM mash-up.

Every Thursday.

HIGHER LEVEL THURSDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Drum &

bass w/ DJ Dreadnought, PhatCat, MC Elite, and guests.

Every Thursday.

JUNIOR BROWN RED STAR Every Thursday.

MIA FELLY BUDOWSKI w/ DJ West Coast Baby Daddy. Every

Thursday.

SALSA STYLE THURSDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE

Every Thursday.

SHOOTIE BLACK DOG Every Thursday.

URBAN SUBSTANCE THURSDAYS GINGER SKY LOUNGE

w/ Urban Substance Sound Crew. Every Thursday.

ALTERNATIVE

THE BUTCHERS HAND THE STUDIO @ MEAD HALL w/ Vesperine Rattle Scene, Sinners Ad, Eminent Reprisal,

Messages Via Canier Pigeon, and Bambi Woods.

BLUES & ROOTS

GUITARMAGEDDON BLUES ON WHYTE.

THE GAULT BROTHERS BAND BLUE CHAIR CAFE.

TERRY JORDEN MURRIETA'S.

TERRY MORRISON THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE.

JAZZ

ANDREW GLOVER FOUR ROOMS.

HUTCHINSON ANDREW TRIO YARDBOO SUITE.

PETRO POLIUN JULIAN'S PIANO BAR.

THE TUXEDO JUNKIES JEFFREY'S CAFE AND WINE BAR.

POP & ROCK

F&M BLACK DOG.

CHRISTINE HORNE TOUCH OF CLASS.

HEATHER MCKENZIE BAND ON THE ROCKS.

HOT WIRE LB'S PUB.

JASON GREELEY THE ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL.

ALTERNATIVE

MY SHAKY JANE VELVET UNDERGROUND

SHUTGUTS THE STUDIO @ MEAD HALL w/ The Pervs, The Swill City Locals, Brother Voodoo, Hazardous Punks and the Affiliations.

SNAP! RENDEZVOUS PUB w/ Fusebox.

T-POWER THE STARLITE ROOM w/ Degree, All Out DJs, Cobza Commander.

BLUES & ROOTS

GUITARMAGEDDON BLUES ON WHYTE.

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WEDNESDAY

ALTERNATIVE

SILVERSTEIN THE STARLITE ROOM w/ Protest The Hero, III

Scarlett and the Devil Wears Prada.

POP & ROCK

DUBLOND THE UVR LOUNGE w/ Color in Conflict.

DJS/CLUB

NIGHTS

GUTTER GULCH WEDNESDAYS

BLACK DOG w/ DJ Buster Friendly.

RETROACTIVE RADIO BLACK DOG,

WOOTOWP w/ LL Cool Joe.

ROCK OUT WITH YER BOX OUT NEW CITY.

WILD CHERRY WEDNESDAYS STOLTZ w/ Tripswitch,

Resident Funk, Steve Velocity, Fusion. Every Wednesday.

CONCERTS

AL BRANT & CORI BREWSTER FEB 2, 8 PM, QUEEN

ALEXANDRA HALL Presented by the Northern Lights Folk Club. Tickets at TIX, Acoustic Music, or Myrtle Info: www.northernlightsfc.ca.

THE BREAKEN FEB 2, 8 PM, ROYAL ALBERT MUSEUM

THEATRE Presented by the Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society. Tickets \$20, \$18 NBLCMS members, at TIX, Acoustic

Music, Myrtle's Music, Southside Sound, or ill the door.

BOWSER & BLUE FEB 2, 10 PM, FESTIVAL PLACE Tickets

\$27 at the Festival Place box office.

BURDON - CARPATHIAN ECHOES JAN 29, 7:30 PM, CONVO-

CATION HALL Folk band based out of Lviv, Ukraine. Tickets

\$20, \$10 students, at the Ukrainian Bookstore (1025-97

St.), CUS (450 Athabasca Hall), and at the door. Info: www.

burdon.lvnu.org

CANTILION CHOIRS FEB 5 & 16, 7:30 PM, JOHN J HAAR

THEATRE "To Broadway with Love" Tickets \$15, \$25, \$60, at

420-1751. Info: www.cantilionchoirs.ca

CHOIR OF CHOIRS FEB 10, 3 PM, WINSPEAR CENTRE Mad-

singer Singers, Augustana Choir, and Chorale Sainte-Jean, with the University Symphony Orchestra. Tickets at the Winspear

box office, 478-1414.

CUPID'S CAPERS FEB 10, 2-5 PM, COAST TERRACE INN The

Trocodre Orchestra on an afternoon of music and dance.

Tickets \$23, at TIX.

EDMONTON BLUES SOCIETY JAN 26, 7:30 PM, QUEEN

ALEXANDRA HALL Presenting Automata, Boogie Patrol and Mad Dog Blue Band. Tickets \$5, \$3 at the door.

HAYDEN FEB 9, 8 PM, McDougall UNITED CHURCH Tickets

at TM - Blackday, Megatones, and Uster.

ICORISTI CHAMBER CHOIR FEB 2, 8 PM, KNOX METRO-

POLITAN UNITED CHURCH "Upbeat!" featuring guest choir

EKOS. Tickets \$18, \$12 students in advance at TIX, \$20, \$15

students at the door.

JAZZART CONCERT JAN 26, 7:30 PM, LA CITÉ FRANCO-

PHONE Artists paint with live jazz accompaniment. Feature-

ing musicians Pierre-Paul Bugeaud, Gord Gabber, and Jamie

Philp, with artists Jacques Martel, Don Charest, Susan

Woolgar, Lorie Tettamonte, and Herman Poulin. Tickets \$30.

Info: 461-3427

LITTLE MISS HIGGINS & GRAHAM GUEST FEB 8, 8 PM,

ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE Presented by Full Moon Folk

Club. Tickets \$17 advance at TIX, or Southside Sound, \$20

at the door.

MARC ATKINSON TRIO JAN 25, 7 PM, ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL

CENTRE Presented by Full Moon Folk Club. Tickets \$17 at TIX.

MUSIC AT CONVOCATION HALL JAN 27, 3 PM, CONVOCATION HALL Guillaume Tardif, violin. Tickets \$20, \$15 students, at TIX or at the door.

MUSIC WEDNESDAYS AT NOON FEB 12, 12:30 PM

McDOUGALL UNITED CHURCH JAN 30, Joel Gray and Judith Loewen, trumpet and piano. Free admission, bring a bag lunch. Tea and coffee available. Info: 468-4964.

PRO CORO CANADA NIGHT

MUSIC JAN 27, 2 PM, WINSPEAR CENTRE Tickets at the Winspear box office, 478-1414.

QUARTANGO FEB 8, 7 PM, ARDEN THEATRE String quartet. Tickets \$25 at ABO or TM.

THE SOPRANOS! SONG RECITAL

FEB 2, 8 PM, ROBERTSON WESLEY UNITED

CHURCH, 102 AVENUE, 123 St. Edmonton singer Judith Richardson (soprano) is joined by Katherine Corcoran (Soprano) for an evening of popular duets and solo.

Includes works by Handel, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Mahler and John Blow. Tickets \$20 at the door, or 450-2428

OPEN STAGE

THURSDAY

BACKDRAUGHT PUB 9 pm. Everyone welcome.

DUSTERS PUB 9 pm-1 am. Hosted by The Wonitha Thomas Band

EDDIE SHORTS 9 pm.

J.R. GRILL & BAR 9 pm-1 am. Hosted by The Shameless Pugs. All styles welcome. BYO instrument, drums & PA provided.

NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR 8 pm. Bring your own instruments, poetry, etc.

NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE 7 pm. Jam hosted by the Wild Rose Old Timey Fiddlers Association. Info: 457-9417.

FRIDAY

NORMWOOD LEGION JAN 18 7:30 pm. Hosted by the Uptown Folk Club. \$4 admission, members free.

SATURDAY

BLUES ON WHITE 4-8:30 pm.

Afternoon jam.

THE CARRROT ARTS COFFEE-HOUSE 7-10 pm. Music and poetry open mic.

COAST TO COAST 9 pm-2 am/w/ Troy P Wright.

MORANGO'S TEA CAFE 7-10 pm. Hosted by Tommy. Info: www.morangostakes.com.

THE NEW TAPOHOUSE 3-7 pm. Molson open stage, hosted by Carmen Cook.

STRATHMORE PUB 2ND SAT EVERY MONTH 5-9 pm. Hosted by The Royal Teese, followed by karaoke.

SUNDAY

CROWN & ANCHOR PUB 3 pm. Open jam & auditions to play at C&A

DUSTERS PUB Hosted by The Mary Thomas Band

EDDIE SHORTS 9 pm. Hosted by Rob Taylor, instruments and gear provided.

HOOLIGANZ PUB Afternoon jam hosted by Rock 'n Roll Kenny

HUBERT'S 7-10 pm. Hosted by Rhea March. Info: www. hubertscs.ca.

NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 3-6 pm. Hosted by Willie James

& Crowdad.

O'BRYNE'S IRISH PUB 9 pm. Hosted by Joe Bird.

RITCHIE COMMUNITY CENTRE MUSIC MATINEE JAN 20,

2 PM. A community space for singing, dancing, and playing music in a range of styles. Admission \$5.18+, no alcohol.

Bring your own instruments, amps, Piano keyboard and P.A. provided. Info: 935-4327.

TEDDY'S LOUNGE & EATERY 9:30 pm. "Anything Goes" afternoon acoustic jam hosted by The Shufflebound.

MONDAY

LB'S PUB 8 pm-12:30 am. Hosted by Sheaved Posse. Ken, Fred, Gordie, and Matt.

PLEASANTVIEW HALL 7 pm. Acoustic fiddle jam hosted by Wild Rose Old Timey Fiddlers Society. Info: 434-5270.

THE IVORY CLUB 8 pm. Hosted by Marty Vinko.

ROUGE LOUNGE 8:30 pm. w/ Mike McDonald and Sherry Lee Wisor.

TUESDAY

THE DRUID 9 pm. Hosted by Chris Wynters.

THE TAPOHOUSE 6:30 pm-1 am. Moosehead Jam, hosted by Mark Ammar, Dale Collins, and Noel Mackenzie.

WEDNESDAY

CAFE BRITT 7-9 pm. Hosted by Paul LePage.

THE ROCK PUB Acoustic night.

EDDIE SHORTS Open jam, all gear provided.

HOOLIGANZ PUB 7:30 pm. Hosted by Rock 'n Roll Kenny.

LITTLE FLOWER OPEN STAGE 8 pm. Hosted by Brian Gregg. Info: www.littleflower.ca or 429-3624.

THE NEW TAPOHOUSE 9 pm. Hosted by Danny Floyd.

PLEASANTVIEW HALL 7:30 pm. Bluegrass jam hosted by Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society. Info: 434-4982.

STEEPS TEA LOUNGE Acoustic open mic every Wed. Last wed every month Spoken Word open mic. Email Jessie at j.albert@gmail.com by Mondays to book a spot that week.

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KARAOKE

B-STREET BAR Wed-Sun w/ Brad Scott.

BLIND PIG Wed & Fri w/ Shelley.

BUD'S LOUNGE Fr & Sat, 9 pm-1:30 am w/ Mt. Entertainment.

CHIMMY'S Thu, Fri, Sat 9:30 pm-1:30 am w/ Jimmy.

CHRISTOPHER'S PUB Tue.

Karaoke Contest until FEB 26.

5500 first place. Info: 462-6565.

CROWN & ANCHOR PUB Thu, 10:30 pm.

CLIFF'S PUB & PANTRY Sat & Sun w/ Krista. Liquid Entertainment.

DOYLE'S PUB B/F 10 pm-2 am/w/ Cathy.

Sat, 10 pm-2 am/w/ Ewan.

THE DRUID Wed, 9 pm w/ Mt. Entertainment.

DUSTER'S PUB Sat.

D.W.'S PUB & GRILL Fri, 9-1 am. Hosted by Mt. Entertainment.

ECO PUB Mon, 9 pm w/ Sonja/Prosound Productions.

ELEMENT LOUNGE Wed, 9 pm

FORT GAMING LOUNGE & SPORTS BAR Fri, 9 pm-1 am w/ Angel Haw.

FOX PUB 9 pm.

FUNKY BUDDHA Sun, 9:30 pm w/ Mt. Entertainment.

GAS PUMP Tue, 9:30-1:30 am w/ Gord's Live Jukebox.

H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE Tue, Sat & Sun.

HAWKEYE TOO Fri, 8 pm w/ Hot Karaoke Productions.

OVERDRIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB & GRILL Sat, 9 pm



HIGHLIGHT • LIVE MUSIC



Who are wolves? | We Are Wolves howl with the best of them. PHOTO SUPPLIED

We Are Wolves • Sat, Jan 26 • The Pawn Shop • \$15 at the door

We Are Wolves (or Nous Sommes Loups—bilingualism rocks!) hail from Montreal, home of all things musically lupine. AIDS Wolf, Wolf Parade, Vintage Wolf. Pitchforkmedia says they "carve [their] own niche within dance-rock's overcrowded market by heavily emphasizing the dirty and painful." Who can say no?

HILLTOP PUB Wed, 9:30 pm.

HOOLIGANZ PUB Thu & Fri w/ Keista, Liquid Entertainment.

JUGS PUB Sat, 9 pm.

KEEP IT SIMPLE (KIS) CLUB Tue & Sun, 6-10 pm. Except

2nd Tue of the month.

KNIGHTS PUB SOUTH Tues-Sat, 9 pm-2 am. Sun 9 pm-1 am. Gord's Live Jukebox.

L.B.'S PUB, Tue, 9:30 pm-1:30 am/w/ The Karakenuts.

THE LOCKER ROOM PUB Mon, 9 pm-1 am/w/ Norm.

METRO BILLIARDS Tue, 10 pm - 2 am/w/ Lounge Lizard Entertainment.

MOJO'S Fri, 9:30 pm/w/Sonia/Prosound Productions.

MONA LISA PUB Thu-Sat, 9:30 pm-2 am, Sat, w/ Cathy.

NIKITA'S Tue & Thu, 7 pm-midnight w/ Shelley.

ON THE ROCKS Mon, 9:30 pm. Drink the Bar Dry Karaoke w/ Scott Parsons, Mt. Entertainment.

OVERDRIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB & GRILL Sat, 9 pm

w/ Jennie Joy.

RAMADA SOUTH Thu, 8 pm Colin & Ed Music Trivia Sun, 8 pm-midnight w/ Colin & Ed, Almost Famous.

RATT Tues, 9 pm. Colin & Ed Music Trivia. Wed, 8 pm/w/ Colin, Almost Famous.

ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL Daily, 9 pm.

ROSE & GRILL Thu, Sat, 9:30 pm-1:30 am.

ROUGE LOUNGE Mon, 8:30 pm, w/ Mike McDonald

Sherry Lee Wisor.

COMING

JAN 25 - AUTO SWITCH, VIVA! Jet Nightclub

JAN 25 - MERCY Shaw Conference Centre

JAN 27 - THIRD DAY Shaw Conference Centre

JAN 27 - WILLIAM JOSEPH Winspear Centre

JAN 28 - JASON DEAN Oil City Roadhouse

JAN 30 - SILVERSTON, ILLSCARLET, PROTEST THE HERO, THE DEAD WEARS PRADA Starlite Room

JAN 30 - THREE GRACES, SEETHER, ECONOLINE CRUSH Shaw Conference Centre

FEB 2 - BONE THUGS-N-HARMONY Edmonton Event Centre

FEB 2 - PUDDLE OF MUDD, SONIC NERGON Jet Nightclub

FEB 5 - COLLECTIVE SOUL Edmonton Event Centre

FEB 7 - ERIC BURDON & THE ANIMALS Edmonton Event Centre

FEB 8 - K-1 & JOID Edmonton Event Centre

FEB 9 - HAYDEN, JENN GRANT McDougall United Church

FEB 10 - SONATA ARCTICA Starlite Room

FEB 11 - BIG COSTA, DELTA SPIRIT Starlite Room

FEB 14 - JOHN MELLELCAMP, TOM COCHRANE, RED RIDER Enmax Centrium

FEB 14 - RUTHIE FOSTER Winspear Centre

FEB 15 - GERONIMO, KILL THE LIGHTS, 40 THIEVES The Pawn Shop

FEB 15 - WINTER SLEEP Starlite Room

FEB 15 - XAVIER RUDY Winspear Centre

FEB 16 - BIG JOHN BATES AND THE VODOOM DOLLZ Starlite Room

FEB 16 - MOS DEF Edmonton Events Centre

FEB 17 - FAINTS, WESTFALIA Starlite Room

FEB 17 - PACO PENA FLAMENCO COMPANY Winspear Centre

FEB 17 - VIDEO GAMES LIVE Jubilee Auditorium

FEB 19 - VIENNA BOYS' CHOIR McDougall United Church

FEB 21-22 - DR. HOOK W/ RAY SAWYER Century Casino

FEB 22 - HOLY FUCK, A PLACE TO BURY STRANGERS Starlite Room

FEB 27 - JOSH RITTER, EMM GRYNN Myer Horowitz Theatre

MAR 1 - FABER DRIVE Shaw Conference Centre

MAR 2-3 - CRYSTAL CASTLES, HEALTH Starlite Room

MAR 12 - AVRIL LAVIGNE, BOYS LIKE GIRLS Rexall Place

MAR 12 - STEVE EARLE, ALLISON MOORE Jubilee Auditorium

MAR 13 - THE WAYBACKS McDougall United Church

MAR 14 - RAINIE MAIDA Starlite Room

MAR 14 - ZIMMER'S HOLE Jubilee Underground

MAR 17 - ANGELIQUE KIDJO Winspear Centre

MAR 19 - MARTINA McBRIE Rexall Place

MAR 21 - JESSE ROSE Fluid Lounge

MAR 24 - HAWKSLEY WORKMAN Winspear Centre

MAR 25 - JASON COLLET, PETE ELIAS Starlite Room

MAR 25 - RASCAL FLATTS Rexall Place

MAR 27 - 31, SLIGHTLY STOOPID Edmonton Events Centre

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on screen

" I'M LIKE THE ABORTION ISSUE. NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, IT DRAWS CONTROVERSY.

REVIEW • NERD CORE • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK (642 words)

The Arcade Fire



Gorilla Warfare | Steve Wiebe enjoys a moment of lonely triumph in *The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

THE KING OF KONG ISN'T JUST ABOUT DONKEY KONG; IT'S ABOUT THE BATTLE FOR THE SOUL OF AMERICA

THE KING OF KONG: A FISTFUL OF QUARTERS

Directed by Seth Gordon. Jan 25-28. Metro Cinema (Zeidler Hall, The Citadel).

★★★★★

Billy Mitchell walks with a swagger. With his black beard and mane of dark black hair, he has the mien of a medieval prince—or at least the synth player for a really bitchin' '80s cover band. He runs his own successful businesses (the Rickey's restaurant chain, as well as a company that makes hot sauce), and his belief in the American capitalist system is so strong that he's rarely seen without his red-white-and-blue tie. Self-doubt appears to be an alien concept to him, and he knows that can rub some people the wrong way.

"I'm like the abortion issue," he says. "No matter what I say, it draws controversy."

One of the interviewees in Seth Gordon's documentary *The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters* even says there's no reason why Billy Mitchell shouldn't get his face on a Wheaties box, although the Wheaties people would probably disagree—they tend

to reserve that spot for actual athletes.

Mitchell is no athlete. But he is one of the great videogame players of all time. He was the first person ever to achieve a perfect score in Pac-Man. And back in the early '80s, he ran up a Donkey Kong score so high that for two decades no one even came close to surpassing it—it was the video arcade equivalent of Bob Beamon's long jump in the 1968 Olympics.

Enter Steve Wiebe, a mild-mannered family man from Redmond, Washington. After getting laid off from his job at Boeing, Wiebe needed a project to fill his days—and after reading about Mitchell's Donkey Kong score on the Internet, he found one. He installed a Donkey Kong machine in his garage, and began practising. He got so good, in fact, that even with his seven-year-old Derek yelling at him to "Wipe my butt!" he smashed Mitchell's high score, and he sent in a videotape of the game to Twin Galaxies, the videogame world's official recordkeeping organization. Suffice it to say that Mitchell, whose identity is based, on large part, on his status as the world Donkey Kong champion, is not pleased by Wiebe's success.

The King of Kong is a story about a rivalry over a ridiculous title that

seemingly only the most hardcore nerd could care about. But it's hard to imagine any nerds more hardcore than the characters in the film: besides the pompous Mitchell (who at one point answers his phone with the words, "Hello—world record headquarters!"), there's an elderly Q-Bert champion, the head of Twin Galaxies (who never seems to remove his referee shirt), and a pudgy videogame player who also stars in a series of homemade "how to pick up chicks" videotapes under the alias "Mr. Awesome."

But Gordon, who must have a will of iron, never resorts to cheap mockery. Perhaps he was inspired by the example of Steve Wiebe, who is so humble, so sweet-natured, so fundamentally decent, and so deserving of some kind of victory in his life, that the prospect of a douche like Billy Mitchell snatching his world record away from him is almost too horrible to contemplate. The gap between their personalities is so great that it immediately raises the stakes of the entire movie: *The King of Kong* isn't just about a competition to set the high score in a videogame; it's about whether a good person can ever catch a break in this world, or if mean people will always find some way to come out on top.

With its bargain-basement cinematography, *The King of Kong* may not look like much, but Gordon's camera is always where it needs to be, catching every key moment of the story. At once funny and sad, pathetic and

inspiring, it's one of the great pop documentaries of recent years. If it were a round of Donkey Kong, it would be a million-point game.

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REVIEW • MONSTER IN MANHATTAN • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK (162 words)

Godzilla vs. YouTube

Did You Read Over the Part Where My Best Friend Gets Eaten? | Michael Stahl-David and Odette Yustman in *Cloverfield*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

CLOVERFIELD TAKES A FRESH APPROACH TO THE CREATURE FEATURE, BUT CAN'T DELIVER ON ITS MONSTROUS PROMISE

CLOVERFIELD

Directed by Matt Reeves. Starring Michael Stahl-David, Lizzy Caplan, Jessica Lucas, Odette Yustman. Now playing.

★★★½

J.J. Abrams has been a major force in TV and movies for 10 years now, but even with three hit series to his credit (*Felicity*, *Alias*, and *Lost*) and a hit movie (*Mission: Impossible 3*), I still can't decide if he's a genius or a charlatan. He's amazingly good at arranging familiar pop-culture tropes—desert-island castaways, international superspies—into fresh new patterns, and amazingly bad at carrying those ideas across the finish line. *Take Lost*, for instance: it's a show that, during its dazzling first season and a half, seemed to contain metaphors for practically everything, but which now seems so tangled up in subplots and arbitrary "mysteries" that it no longer seems like it's ever going to amount to anything.

Abrams didn't write or direct *Cloverfield* (like last year's "Judd Apatow comedy" *Superbad*, it's a movie people attribute to its superstar producer instead of the people who actually created it), but the writer, Drew Goddard, and the director, Matt Reeves, have both worked extensively on Abrams' TV shows, and *Cloverfield* has all the hallmarks of the Abrams brand.

The young, no-name cast—all of them TV-trained, albeit not on shows you probably watched—is ridiculously good-looking, even by Hollywood standards. The characters live in places that are ridiculously expensive but still youthful and "funky"—the

kind of New York loft a hip 25-year-old lawyer would live in if he were making the salary of a successful 60-year-old lawyer. The premise—a monster movie about a giant creature attacking New York filmed from the point of view of a single digital camera—is smart, snappy, and was probably a breeze to pitch to the studios. Like all of Abrams' projects, it's highly commercial but with enough of a twist to make you think, "Now that could be interesting."

And for the first 45 minutes or so, *Cloverfield* is very interesting indeed. We start out at the going-away party for Rob Hawkins (Michael Stahl-David), who is set to take on a vice-president position at his company's office in Japan. As his friend Hud (T.J. Miller) circulates around the party with a digital camera, collecting farewell messages for Rob, we learn that a romance has quietly arisen between Rob and a girl named Beth (Odette Yustman), who is devastated at the prospect of his leaving the country. But this soap opera is interrupted by a gigantic tremor that shakes the building and temporarily knocks out the power. When the guests climb up to the roof to see what's happening, they see a hail of fire raining down around them—and then the head of the Statue of Liberty flying through the air and landing on the street.

This section of the film shamelessly but effectively invokes the imagery of 9/11: buildings collapsing, crowds clogging the Brooklyn Bridge, people covered in ash staggering along the sidewalk, normal, everyday life joltingly interrupted. And by only giving us the information that Hud gets through his camera lens, Reeves shrewdly captures the mood of 9/11 too: the panic of knowing something

cataclysmic has happened but being unable to tell exactly what it is, or where to go that will be safe. (Disaster movies, 9/11, photography—*Cloverfield* is a perfect storm of Susan Sontag's favourite things.)

It turns out that some kind of giant creature—less a Godzilla-style titan than a humongous orc—is on the loose. And it's somewhere around here, as Rob and a handful of surviving partygoers try to get across Manhattan to rescue Beth, who's trapped under a collapsed wall in her apartment, that the movie gets less interesting. It quickly becomes clear that the filmmakers don't have much interest in developing their 9/11 allegory and the film turns into nothing more ambitious than an escape-the-monster amusement park ride.

And I think *Cloverfield* works on that rock-'em-sock-'em level. There are some genuine jolts here, the combination of CGI monsters and handheld camerawork is seamless and the youthful filmmakers demonstrate an effortless, playful familiarity with the grammar of digital video that Brian De Palma couldn't quite pull off in *Redacted*. For instance, when Hud occasionally stops filming, we get glimpses of the footage he's taping over: home movies taken weeks earlier of Rob and Beth during happier times, when they were running for their lives.

If only these moments were more resonant or poetic, and the two characters weren't such blandly attractive nothingness! And if only the movie didn't build to such an anticlimax! *Cloverfield* is ample proof that J.J. Abrams knows how to tickle the public's imagination, but he still hasn't quite figured out how to haul our dreams.

Stepper's Delight

HOW SHE MOVE REMINDED ME OF AN OLD JEAN-CLAUDE VAN DAMME MOVIE. (THAT'S A GOOD THING)

HOW SHE MOVE

Directed by Ian Iqbal Rashid. Starring Rutina Wesley, Dwain Murphy, Tré Armstrong. Opens Fri. Jan. 25.

★★★☆☆

It's no secret and I make no apologies for it: I'm a sucker for an underdog story, always have been. I'd like to say my love for the old "against all odds" cliché started with *Rocky* or *The Karate Kid* or some other life-affirming classic, but in actuality I think it might have been *Bloodsport* or *Lionheart* or maybe even *Gymkata*. There was just something about those movies; the hero returns

to the old stomping ground, in most cases to avenge a fallen comrade or sibling. But he heads into his inherited conflicts too quickly. He's hopeless at first. But then a power-guitar slow-motion workout montage ensues, leading up to the big fight or the big match or the big tournament in which our hero finally achieves redemption. If those movies were good for anything besides pure, mindless entertainment (and it's debatable whether a lot of them were even good for that), it was their by-the-numbers predictability. The good guys wore white; the bad guys had crazy mustaches.

Well, there are no crazy Fu Manchus in *How She Move*, but the plot points are strikingly similar to those really bad but close-to-my-heart



Wax On, Step Off? | Rutina Wesley is a dancing version of *The Karate Kid* in *How She Move*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Jean-Claude Van Damme movies of the 80s.

Raya (Rutina Wesley) thought she was free from her old neighbourhood, attending a faraway private school, planning eventually to become a doctor. Her dreams, of course, are shattered after the financial strain of her junkie sister gets to be too much for her Jamaican immigrant parents. Raya is forced to move back to the block, which she does with eye-rolling resentment.

Her old friends, meanwhile, now see her as stuck-up—a traitor. Her ex-BFF Michelle (Tré Armstrong) holds the biggest grudge. And when Raya starts making eyes with the hunky Bishop (Dwain Murphy), Michelle calls her out.

Now, maybe I'm out of touch with the young'uns. Maybe I'm not too up on what's "it" anymore. But apparently if you have a problem with someone these days, you don't fight—you "step," a form of dance

previously showcased in *Stomp the Yard* and *Drumline*. A kind of urban clogging against a heavy hip hop beat, it's pretty cool, actually. It kind of makes me wish we were living in a world where *all* conflicts could be resolved by stomping your feet and making crazy monkey sex faces and clunky bass and synth riffs.

Anyway, Raya decides that stepping is her only way back out of her inner city. The big Step Morale Competition is coming up, and the grand prize is just lucrative enough to cover her private school tuition. Only problem is that to make the big coin, she has to be in a boy's s

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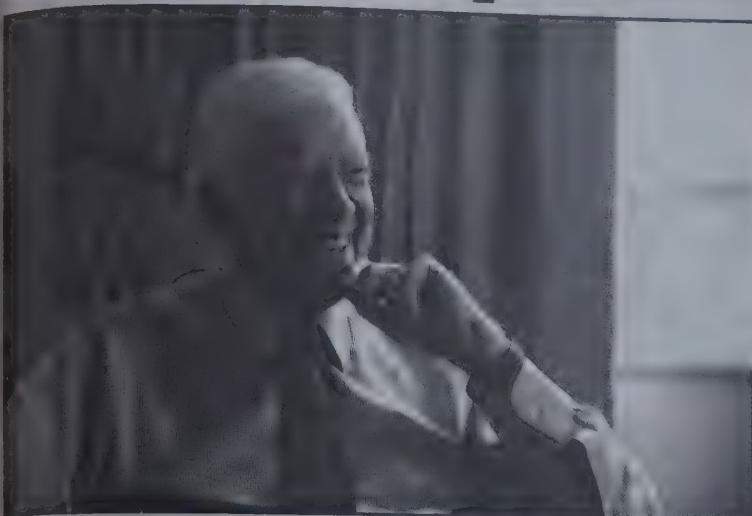
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REVIEW · GEORGIA RULES · BY NICOLA SIMPSON KHULLAR | 1608 words

on screen

Gettin' Jimmy With It



He Looks Better With Every Passing Year, Doesn't He? | The neonate naïve comes off quite admirably in *Jimmy Carter: Man From Plains*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

THE SOFT-SPOKEN EX-PRESIDENT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE EQUALLY UNASSUMING JIMMY CARTER: MAN FROM PLAINS

JIMMY CARTER: MAN FROM PLAINS

Directed by Jonathan Demme. Jan 24, 26-28. Metro Cinema (Zeller Hall, The Citadel).

★★★½

My husband has a yen for presidential homes and museums. In our travels, we've so far ticked Jefferson, FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy off the list. But we've never been to Plains, Georgia (pop. 64), home of the 39th president of the United States of America, James Earl Carter.

Jonathan Demme's new documentary *Jimmy Carter: Man From*

Plains follows Carter through a few weeks at the tail end of 2006 as he promotes his latest book. The book, provocatively titled *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, raises some hackles on the junket, but Carter takes it all in his soft-spoken Southern stride.

Lulled by his soporific voice and embraced by his gentle attitude, it's easy to remember why he was branded as a milquetoast president. It's also easy to forget that he, at one point the most powerful man in the world, has probably done more for humanity than any American president since.

While in office, he cut the defence budget and reduced American oil consumption while facing an energy crisis. He honoured the SALT treaty to reduce nuclear arms, and waged a war of diplomacy with a revolution-

ary Iran, and won. He brokered the only real peace deal in the Middle East in the 20th century. He helps Habitat for Humanity and monitors free elections all over the world. He won the fricking Nobel Peace Prize, for yimmy's sake! (Sorry, I can't cuss in front of the man.)

Of course, hindsight is 20/20. He might regret backing Robert Mugabe, handing over canal power to Panama, and reinstating registration for the military draft of strapping young American men. But you don't get any mention of that here.

While Demme (best known as the Oscar-winning director of films like *Silence of the Lambs* and *Philadelphia*) emphasizes intimate shots with handheld cameras, he does so more to create an unfiltered, vérité style than to intrude on his subject's

privacy or to manufacture false "edginess." In fact, the edgiest bit in this picture occurs when Carter calls a reporter "obnoxious" after a particularly frustrating phone interview. *Ooooooh.*

In some ways, Demme's direction is naturalistic enough to be invisible. Anyone could have directed this kind of movie. Most of Demme's nonfictional efforts have been rockumen-

same socks two days in a row. I want to see Jimmy Carter pissed off that his eggs are scrambled, not sunny side up.

Instead he's an awkwardly benevolent man whose humility seems out of step with the position he once held and that which he still occupies. Jimmy and his wife Rosalynn can outwit their Secret Service shadows on rusty Georgia dirt roads. Their

I WANT TO SEE THE JIMMY CARTER WHO WEARS THE SAME SOCKS TWO DAYS IN A ROW. I WANT TO SEE JIMMY CARTER PISSED OFF THAT HIS EGGS ARE SCRAMBLED, NOT SUNNY SIDE UP.

taries (*Neil Young. Heart of Gold. Stop Making Sense*), and it's possible that he relies on the energy of his subjects to rev up the audience. Jimmy Carter is not a revver.

We see Carter as a vigorous octogenarian. He swims in the hotel pool. He calls his wife on his cellphone. He glads hands fellow passengers on his flights. But sometimes this isn't enough to make him human. I want to see the Jimmy Carter who can't sleep at night when he's in a different hotel room every day. I want to see the Jimmy Carter who wears the

kitchen looks like it hasn't been updated since 1982. That's the Carters for you.

In the end, you'll admire the man from Plains, but he only mildly stimulated by *Jimmy Carter Man From Plains*. I get the feeling that this movie was bankrolled by his publisher as a kind of promotional companion. It's about Jimmy wanting to get the message out about Palestine, not the message about Jimmy. But that's Carter's MO, and always has been.

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Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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A lovestruck, stuttering teenager joins his high-school debate team in this minor but likable Rushmore-lite comedy from director Jeffrey Blitz: the guy who previously made the wonderful spelling-bee documentary *Spellbound*. Now all he has to do is make a movie about the chess club, and he'll have completed his trilogy!



DAMAGES: THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

This FX series starring Glenn Close as a ruthless lawyer and Ted Danson as the billionaire CEO she's determined to bring down may have been too diabolically twisty and complicated for viewers who've already devoted much of their brainspace to keeping track of the plot of *Lost*. But *Damages'* clever time-hopping structure makes it perfect for a weekend DVD binge.



THE NINES

Ryan Reynolds, Hope Davis, and *Gilmore Girls* sidekick Melissa McCarthy play three roles each in this intriguing mindbender from writer/director John August. The Dictator admits he has an ulterior motive in recommending this movie: he's desperate to find someone else who's seen it so that they can help him figure out what the fuck is actually going on in it.



QUIET CITY/DANCE PARTY, USA

This disc contains two features from writer/director Aaron Katz—and together they contain enough plot to fill an eighth of a normal Hollywood film! But don't be dissuaded: Katz is a star of the "mumblecore" genre—films more about mood and closely observed characters than, you know, creating stories in which things actually happen. They're kind of awesome!

BEYOND THE BLURBS • ONLINE CRITICS HAVE THEIR SAY



Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor, Your Tentacled Masses | A headless Statue of Liberty presides over Cloverfield. PHOTO SUPPLIED

THIS WEEK: IS CLOVERFIELD SCARY OR MERELY OPPORTUNISTIC?

Keith Uhlich, **UGO.com** | "Cloverfield" is structured like a latter-day porno, complete with blandly fresh bodies, ugly video aesthetic, and full-on facial climax, though it plays most disquietingly as a snuff film concocted by PG-13-minded eggheads possessed of a shallow obsession with "post-9/11" allegory. (Compare the weightless shenanigans here to George Romero's upcoming *Diary of the Dead*, which infuses its similarly first-per-

son-shooter aesthetic with a deep-rooted resonance—a true sense of what it means to gaze at present-tense tragedy—that eludes *Cloverfield*'s creators.)

Nathan Lee, **Village Voice** | "With its emphasis on corporate infrastructure and the unimaginative consumer class that enables it, *Cloverfield* makes for a most satisfying death-to-New-York saga. Which is to say, the fatal flaw of Drew Goddard's script—shallow, unlikable heroes—can be flipped to an asset: death to the shallow, unlikable heroes!"

Keith Phipps, **The Onion AV Club** | "*Cloverfield*'s you-are-there immediacy speaks so directly to a decade in which camera phones and YouTube have taken the middleman out of video. Also, it's absolutely terrifying, and it's all the more effective for the way it lets viewers spend time getting to know the retitled stars, and the emotions and regrets behind their seemingly futile efforts to survive. It puts human faces on the victims of mass destruction, faces that might easily have been yours or mine, staring down the maw of something we don't understand."

Adam Nayman, **Eye Weekly** | "There's something cynical in the way these filmmakers play off memories of 9/11, as if a B-movie scenario about a gigantic beast laying waste to a city were an acceptable allegory for a real-world act of terrorism. The notion of game filmmaking as a backdoor approach to parsing larger issues is valid, but the best examples—*Night of the Living Dead*, the first two *Body Snatchers* films—work because they channel, rather than package, our anxieties. However good a job they've done of selling it to us, *Cloverfield* is, finally, just product, at best disposable, and at worst mildly toxic."

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Fridays 7:30, 8:30

BUCKET LUST
Fridays 12:30, 3:25, 5:25, 7:25, 9:20. Coarse language

JUNO
Fridays 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. Coarse language, mature themes

27 DRESSES
Fridays 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. No passes

CLOVERFIELD
Fridays 1:10, 2:30, 4:30, 6:15, 8:00, 9:45. Frightening scenes, No passes

THE BUCKET LIST
Fridays 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30. Coarse language, mature themes

RAMBO
Nightly 7:10, 9:15; matinee Sat 8: Sun 1:10, 3:15. Coarse language, mature themes

CLOVERFIELD
Nightly 7:05, 9:10; matinee Sat 8: Sun 1:05, 3:10

WETASKIWIN CINEMA 4 PLEX

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BAD MONEY
Nightly 7:30, 9:30. Sat/Sun matinee 1:30, 3:15

CLOVERFIELD
Nightly 7:10, 9:15. Sat/Sun 1:10, 3:10. Frightening scenes

RAMBO
Nightly 7:30, 9:30. Sat/Sun matinee 1:30, 3:15

WWF: ROYAL RUMBLE
Sat 8:00

ATONEMENT

Fri-Thurs 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 10:30. Coarse language, mature themes

THE GOLDEN COMPASS
Fri-Wed 11:30, 3:30, 6:30. Thurs 5:30. Violence, not recommended for young children

METROPOLITAN OPERA: HANSEL AND GRETEL — ENCORE

STC Sat 11:00

SCARY LEGEND
Sat 8:00

NORTH EDMONTON

14231-1316 AVENUE • 732-2223

MEET THE SPARTANS
Fri-Thurs 10:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30. PG. Coarse content

UNTRACEABLE
Fridays 12:30, 4:30, 7:45, 10:30. PG. Sex scenes, brief violence

RAMBO
Fridays 12:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30. Gory scenes, brutal violence

MAD MONEY
Fridays/Weds 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45. Mon-Thurs 4:45, 6:45, 9:45. Coarse language, mature themes

THE BUCKLE LIST
Fridays 12:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30. PG. Sex scenes, brief violence

THE WATER MUSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP
Fridays 12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. Frightening scenes

THE BUCKLE LIST
Fridays 12:30, 2:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30. PG. Sex scenes, brief violence

THE GREAT DEBATORS
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THE GREAT DEBATORS</

MOVIES · OPENING THIS WEEK

BATTLEFIELD EARTH

Local actor Dave Clark and a team of improvisers provide a live comic commentary to this notorious 2000 sci-fi catastrophe, based on the novel by L. Ron Hubbard, starring John Travolta as an arrogant alien who inadvertently causes a mass rebellion of the humans he's enslaved in his gold-mining operation. Metro Cinema: Jan 24-25 (9pm)

BOOGIE NIGHTS

Mark Wahlberg, Burt Reynolds, Julianne

Moore, Heather Graham, and Don Cheadle star in writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson's fun-filled 1997 ensemble comedy/drama about a naive youth who parlay his enormous penis to superstardom in the 1970s porn industry, only to have egomania and drug addiction bring him crashing back down to earth. Metro Cinema: Jan 27 (4pm)

HOW SHE MOVE

Rutina Wesley, Tré Armstrong, and Dwan Murphy star in *Touch of Pink* director Iqbal Rashid's energetic musical drama about a private-school student who trans-

fers to a crime-ridden inner-city high school, where she rekindles her love of competitive step-dancing.

JIMMY CARTER, MAN FROM PLAINS

Silence of the Lambs director Jonathan Demme tags along with the former U.S. president during the book tour for his controversial bestseller *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid* in this admiring documentary. Metro Cinema: Jan 24, 26-28 (Thu, Sat & Mon at 6:45pm, Sun at 8:45pm)

THE KING OF KONG: A FISTFUL OF QUARTERS

Two men—one a villainous hot-sauce entrepreneur, the other a humble schoolteacher—vie to establish the all-time high score in *Donkey Kong* in this crowd-pleasing documentary from director Seth Gordon. Metro Cinema: Jan 25-28 (Fri & Sun at 7pm, Sat & Mon at 9pm)

MEET THE SPARTANS

Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo, Method Man, and Carmen Electra star in this slapdash spoof of *300* and other recent Hollywood hits from *Epic Movie/Date Movie* schlockmeisters Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer.

PUNCH-DRUNK LOVE

Adam Sandler, Emily Watson, and Philip Seymour Hoffman star in writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson's offbeat 2002 romantic comedy about a lonely, inarticulate salesman trying to keep his rageaholic tendencies in check when he embarks upon a tentative romance with a mysterious woman. Metro Cinema: Jan 27 (2pm)

RAMBO

The indestructible, tragically misunderstood Vietnam War vet battles Burmese mercenaries on behalf of a group of helpless Christian aid workers in this latest adventure starring Sylvester Stallone (who also directed and co-wrote the screenplay), Julie Benz, and Paul Schulze.

UNTRACEABLE

Diane Lane, Colin Hanks, and Erin Carufel star

in *Primal Fear* director Gregory Hoblit's technologically dubious thriller about a team of FBI agents on the trail of a serial killer who broadcasts his crimes over the Internet.

MOVIES · ALSO PLAYING

27 DRESSES

Like a bridesmaid's dream, this romantic comedy is girly, fluffy, not especially well-constructed, and useful for only a single night. But it fits Katherine Heigl's considerable charms to a T.

★★★☆☆

THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY

This true story of one man's triumph over almost unimaginable physical hardship—Jean-Dominique Bauby literally blinked out a memoir after a rare medical condition paralyzed his entire body except for his left eye—is an emotionally unflinching, visually extraordinary film-going experience. Unforgettable and utterly unmissable.

★★★★★

THE GREAT DEBATERS

This drama about a debate team from an all-black Texas college that beat plenty of better-funded teams from white schools during the 1930s is more sturdy than stirring, more admirable than uplifting. But Denzel Washington could probably debate us into knocking it up half a star if he put his mind to it.

★★★☆☆

MAD MONEY

Cute, inoffensive, but not quite worth spending money—mad or otherwise—on.

★★☆☆☆

THERE WILL BE BLOOD

Paul Thomas Anderson has his detractors, but there's no disputing that he knocks this one out of the ballpark. Daniel Day-Lewis is stunning as a turn-of-the-century oilman who descends into a pit of misanthropy deeper and blacker than any of his wells. A major achievement.

★★★★★



Hot Hubbard Popcorn | *Battlefield Earth* gets a merriest mocking courtesy of Metro Cinema. PHOTO SUPPLIED

The Bigger The Hit The Harder They Fall

MEET THE SPARTANS

STARS FRIDAY!

www.meetthespartans.com

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JUNO

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Tricky Gervais

**EDMONTON'S MOST VERSATILE
YOUNG ACTOR RESPONDS
ACCORDIONLY TO MACGREGOR'S
HARD ICE CREAM AND GAS**

MACGREGOR'S HARD ICE CREAM AND GAS

Directed by John Hudson. Written by Daniel MacDonald. Starring Corbin Cairns, Jesse Gervais, Mark Jenkins, Myla Southward. Jan 24-Feb 10. Verscona Theatre (10329-83 Ave). Tickets available through TIX on the Square (420-1757).

Okay: quick quiz.

A lot of the scenes in Daniel MacDonald's play *MacGregor's Hard Ice Cream and Gas* revolve around the conflict between two prairie brothers: Fred, the good-hearted but somewhat stodgy and unimaginative realist; and Jack, the wild one, who steals his dead father's coffin (with the corpse still in it), hides it in an upper room of the house, and preserves the body with a few dozen gallons of homemade ice cream while Fred tries to talk him into returning the coffin to the living room.

Now here's the quiz: which brother do you think Jesse Gervais plays?

If you said Jack, you'd be wrong—but you've obviously been seeing a lot of local theatre. Jesse Gervais is only 30, but he's already made a name for himself as Edmonton theatre's "anti-Fred." He's the actor every local theatre company calls whenever they need someone to play a character who's either very crazy or very stupid. Gervais says he gets "the Will Ferrell thing" a lot, and it's easy to see why—he shares Ferrell's ability to play total idiocy with complete, un-self-conscious conviction, and the mad gleam that appears in Gervais' eyes in many of his performances (for instance, as the oblivious, lunkheaded title character in *Nama Namerson, The Viking Who Liked to Name Things*) recalls Ferrell's patented thousand-yard stare. "I tend to play characters named either 'Stupid' or 'Lad,'" Gervais says with a laugh.

But Gervais' roles have not been limited to wacky comedies. Far from it. Indeed, it's hard to think of another local actor (especially one so young) who has been so consistently busy and who has appeared in so many different kinds of plays. He's done Shakespeare in the Park and *A Christmas Carol* at The Citadel, but he also played Billy the Kid in Northern Light Theatre's production of Michael McClure's notorious battle-of-the-sexes two-hander *The Beard*. He's done a David Belke show and a Stewart Lemoine show, but he's also appeared in the avant-garde indie dance show *Scythe* and Firefly Theatre's "aerial theatre" experiment *Duck Duck Bang*. I can think of no higher compliment than to say he's an actor who always seems game for anything. He'll wear a ridiculous-looking wig in *Silence*, and he'll grow a pathetically

unfashionable mustache to play Fred in *MacGregor's*. He's never even been nominated for a single Sterling Award, but he's one of Edmonton theatre's most valuable players.

Jesse Gervais sat down with *SEE* at a Whyte Avenue juice bar to talk about his career... and like the gentleman he is, he even picked up the cheque. Here's our conversation.

SEE Magazine: Actors tend to belong to one of two groups: either they're shy, introspective people who turn to theatre as an outlet for their emotions, or they're people who loved being the centre of attention ever since they were two. Which one are you?

Jesse Gervais: I guess I'm the second type. I was the one who was always forced to sing "The Gambler" at his mother's Tupperware parties. I knew a lot of songs when I was a kid. And academically, I was never a superstar. I definitely enjoyed joking around and being social more than I did studying.

SEE: Was there a moment when you became aware of acting as a thing that people actually, you know, did?

JG: Oh, yeah. I had one of those pivotal encounters with the high school drama teacher. I was in Grade 9, and I was playing Jonathan Harker in a production of *Dracula*.

SEE: The Keanu Reeves role!

JG: Yeah, and I don't think I played it with any more intelligence than he did. I was so bad, but I got bit by the bug. And I was lucky enough that my drama teacher hit me with a sledgehammer and told me, "Listen—you're going to have to suck it up and do better than this." It totally opened my eyes and set me on the right path. So years later, I tried out for the fine arts program at the U of A, and I didn't get in. And then I auditioned again the second year, and didn't get in again. And then the third year, I was on the waiting list one last time, and I was really thinking, "This is it—I don't need this program. I'm sick of auditioning for it." And I finally got in.

SEE: Do you think now that they were idiots for not admitting you? Or were you pretty green back then?

JG: Oh, I was super-green. I wouldn't have let myself in either! But I was a gluton for punishment, I guess. Other people would have been smart and given up! [Laughs.] You know, my dad always says, "You could have been a welder! You could be making a huge salary right now!" But this was the thing that I knew I could do—or at least that I knew I'd always have a good time doing. And that was my priority in university: good times!

SEE: It's strange—I see a lot of Studio Theatre shows starring each year's class of B.F.A. students, but I find I seldom gel



Edmonton's most versatile young actor responds accordionaly to MacGregor's Hard Ice Cream and Gas



H-Diddy Ho, Neighbourino! Jesse Gervais perfects his new Ned Flanders-esque soup-strainer in the Varscona Theatre dressing room, while director John Hudson looks on. PHOTO BY IAN JACKSON

a sense of what those young actors are all about as performers until after they graduate and I see them at the Fringe or wherever.

JG: Exactly, I didn't have a sense of who I was until I graduated! It's not until you're out in the professional world that you really get a sense of how you come off to people and you realize, "Wow... I seem to be getting cast as a lot of assholes!"

SEE: What kind of parts do you get offered generally?

JG: Well, someone once said that if they ever made a play out of *American Psycho*, I'd be in it. I know I give off a crazy energy when I'm onstage.

SEE: Do directors ever tell you to tone it down?

JG: Inevitably always. [Laughs.] I remember the first national review I ever got—it was from *The Globe and Mail* when we did [Trevor Schmidt's campy musical] *Kiss My Ass!* at the High Performance Rodeo in Calgary. And the guy said, "Gervais, although physically perfect for the role, quickly changed from shallow-funny to shallow-boring." So... ouch! But I'll tell you: I would rather appear stupid than hot, goofy than sexy. It's a much more comfortable place for me to be in.

SEE: Tell me about the reality of being a working actor in Edmonton. Do you have a day job, for instance?

JG: No, I haven't had to so far. The one side job I like to do is the

medical improvs at the university. [The university hospital frequently employs local actors to impersonate patients in order to help medical students improve their bedside manner and diagnostic skills. —Ed.] There's nothing better than sitting around pretending you have syphilis all day. And I've done a few voices for Bioware. I've been very, very lucky not to have to take a day job.

SEE: What's your process when you start working on a play. Like *MacGregor's*, for instance: how did you get ready for this show?

JG: Well, I like to do a lot of things that make it look like I've done a lot of work. [Laughs.] I highlight my lines. I make sure my script is in a nice binder. You can even put in some doodles on the side of your script to make it look like you've put a lot of thought into the part. Seriously, though, most of my preparations for this show have consisted of learning how to play the accordion.

SEE: Right, because it's really built up in the script that Fred is this accordion virtuoso who's been playing ever since he was a kid. Are you musical at all?

JG: Uh... I used to play piano when I was little, and now I'm one of those people who lives with tremendous musical regret and wish my parents forced me to practice more. So I started taking lessons just before Christmas with Darrin Hagen, who taught me "The Skaters' Waltz."

which is the one song I need to play in the show. And I'm sure everyone else in the show totally hates it now, because it's the only thing I know how to play. I learned the left hand and the right hand independently and spent the holidays trying to put it all together. So now I can play the song... but playing and talking is still really hard for me, so I'm back at the point where I totally suck.

SEE: Casting you as the more conventional brother in this show is a little counterintuitive. Have you ever gotten to play this kind of role before?

JG: No! It's great: I get to play the

accordion, I get to grow a terrible mustache, and I get to play a part I normally would never be cast in.

SEE: Do you find yourself consciously having to tamp down your energy in this part?

JG: Absolutely. The whole process has been about me getting as far away as possible from the place I feel safe in, and to get away from all those habits that I'm so painfully aware of having done 100 times before. It's so embarrassing.

SEE: Have you ever done a play that you regret, where you weren't happy with your performance, or which just wasn't a very good experience?

ence?

JG: Well, doing *All Clear* at Theatrical Network was kind of one of my more difficult experiences. The only thing my character ever said was "Orange." It had one of the best casts ever—John Wright, Brian Dooley, Marianne Copithorne, Vanessa Holmes. And me—I was kind of the weak link there. And Eugene Stickland wrote, like, the worst play in the universe.... It was so bad. I really didn't think I was going to be able to get through it.

SEE: Wow.

JG: Hey, it's Eugene Stickland—who cares about him, anyway? [Laughs.]

SEE: After that *Alberta Views* article [in which Stickland claimed Calgary had overtaken Edmonton as Alberta's theatre capital], is he persona non grata in Edmonton now?

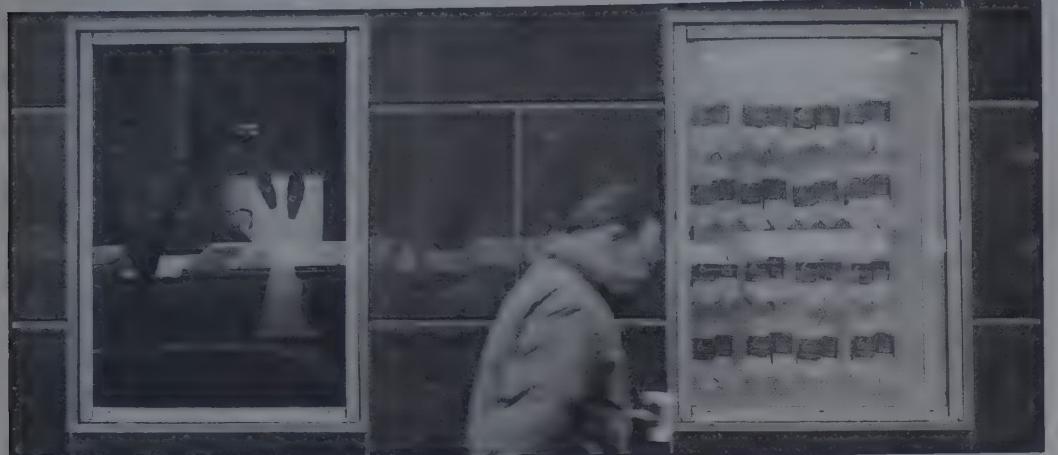
JG: No, no. Who cares? I think the only people who care about "Calgary vs. Edmonton" are the people in Calgary. They have a nicer bar—that's about it.

SEE: We did an article in SEE a few weeks ago where we asked various Edmonton actors to name their "dream roles." But we didn't ask you. So, is there a particular role you've always wanted to play but have never had the chance to do so?

JG: I'd like to do *Estragon* in *Waiting for Godot* when I'm, like, 60. Oh, and I've always wanted to be one of The Doodlebops.

You know, my dad always says, "You could have been a welder! You could be making a huge salary right now!" But this was the thing that I knew I could do—or at least that I knew I'd always have a good time doing.

How Much Is That Tchotchke In The Window?



Who Will Buy? Is Shane Krepakovich's anti-consumerist art installation a tad too subtle for its own good? PHOTO BY MERYL LAWTON

SHANE KREPACHEVICH USES THE WINDOWS OF THE BAY BUILDING TO SUBTLY CRITIQUE CONSUMER ASSUMPTIONS

WINDOW DRESSING

By Shane Krepakovich; Until March 24, Art Gallery of Alberta (10290 Jasper Ave.).

Perhaps the most striking thing about *Window Dressing*, Shane Krepakovich's installation at the Art Gallery of Alberta, is its location. The piece, which comments on the socio-economic assumptions built into storefront marketing, takes up two display windows on the west side of the building that previously served as a showcase for wares sold

by its previous tenant, the Hudson's Bay Company.

"I wanted it to look enough like a window display that there'd be no question of what it is," Krepakovich says, "but make it strange enough to make them reconsider what they're looking at."

The sight of merchandise in the building's windows would be entirely commonplace if the Bay hadn't moved out, leaving its flagship Edmonton store empty and useless for the better part of a decade until organizations like the AGA decided to make use of its cavernous spaces and central location. This history of inutility lends itself to Krepakovich's purposes as well.

"I wanted to have the window displays separated from a store, because usually when you're walking by and see a window display you know you can go in and buy those products," Krepakovich says. "It was important to me to create a window display where people maybe want to go in and buy the items and they can't, so they're presented with the divide between marketing and consumption."

The installation takes the form of two display windows side by side. One houses numerous pairs of white socks hanging from metal hooks in a piece of pegboard under a bare fluorescent bar, with the legend "SALE \$4.99." The other contains what Krepakovich calls a more theatrical

scene set farther back from the window and lit more dramatically. A pair of women's shoes, a handbag and a scarf, all dark in colour, are artfully arranged and swathed in shadows, presenting a more alluring image of the goods on offer than in the adjacent pane. No price is indicated—it may be that if you have to ask how much, you can't afford it anyway.

"The idea," Krepakovich says, "was to present the low-end stuff in multiples without making it too pretty, making it representative of what you would find in a store for that kind of thing—generic and kind of gross. I always disliked getting white socks, so that's why I chose them. In the other window, I wanted to focus on a the-

atrical scene, because usually in the theatrical scenes set up [at Holt Renfrew and places like that], aside from making it exciting and appealing, there's a kind of suggestion of what background you should be coming from, what kind of people should be buying that stuff."

To further his point, Krepakovich has altered the "high-end objects" so theatrically displayed to display their singularity and worth. While the white socks are nothing more than a cheap, reproducible commodity mundane in form and function, the ostensibly costlier items don't rely on function to be considered valuable. But you'll have to look closely to tell.

"Where the object is in shadow, I've removed that physical part of the object," Krepakovich says. "See the shadow on the sole of the shoe? That part of the sole has been removed and the heel is gone. The scarf has been cut along the light-dark line. The idea was that high-end objects are sold for status and as symbols of wealth and power, so I wanted to make the point that they're sold more as symbols than as functional items. They maintain the image of being whole, even though they're completely useless."

While Krepakovich has since packed up and relocated to Montreal to continue his pursuit of painting, photography, music, and installation work, *Window Dressing* will continue to prick the brains of passers-by—those who notice it, any rate—in Edmonton's downtown core until March 24.

Hockey Night on the Prairie

IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION, IT'S THE JOURNEY THAT MATTERS IN HOCKEY STORIES FOR BOYS

HOCKEY STORIES FOR BOYS

Directed by Steve Piro; Written by George Szalay; Starring Steve Piro, K.S. Callihoo, Murray Utas; Until Jan 27, Roxy Theatre (10708-124 St). Tickets/info: 453-2440

I can't have been the only Canadian who was a little incredulous when the Anaheim Mighty Ducks won the Stanley Cup last year. A team from southern California, barely a decade old, named after a stupid Hollywood movie, won our national game's highest trophy? What. The. Hell.

Neil McKinnon would be outraged too. The unlucky-in-life loser at the heart of *Hockey Stories for Boys*, Neil (Steve Piro) doesn't have much going for him besides a disintegrating marriage and a head full of hockey-related stats and stories. As the play opens, he's taking a Greyhound bus to visit his dad back in his old home-

town. As he goes through the old man's junk, he finds a book written by his grandfather called, yes, *Hockey Stories for Boys*—a compendium of Canadian hockey lore.

And inside the book is something even more precious: a copy of the original deed of trust written by Lord Stanley to the NHL. Thought to be lost forever, the document states that the Cup cannot be awarded to any team outside the Dominion of Canada. Naturally, wayward, directionless Neil sees this as a chance to make right a terrible wrong, and he decides to bring this talismanic piece of parchment to the nation's attention—by any means necessary.

Neil soon bumps into an old school buddy, Darcy, who offers Neil some cash to ferry some medical bud cross-country to Toronto. This operation dovetails nicely with Neil's plans to take Lord Stanley's dead to the Hockey Hall of Fame and have it authenticated. Darcy, played by K.S. Callihoo as a perfectly foul-mouthed,

greasy-haired prairie hoser, is an even sadder sad sack than Neil, a once-promising hockey wunderkind who lost his leg in a car accident and who's been hobbling around the pair's old hometown ever since.

Together, they take "The Beast" (Neil's father's beat-up old car) and head out on a cross-country journey fraught with encounters with Hell's Angels, mysterious recurring dreams featuring a taunting Quebecois stick-handler named Jacques, and lots of shop talk about hockey.

But *Hockey Stories* is only superficially a hockey story. It's about national identity, about hope lost and found, and about the disappointment of growing up and realizing life hasn't turned out the way it seemed it inevitably would when you were a kid. Despite what you might think from the title, George Szalay hasn't written a story just for boys, and it's not just for puckheads either. Take my word for it: I've never even watched an NHL game all the way through. Un-

til I looked his name up five minutes ago, I didn't know why everybody hated Chris Pronger so much.

But even I was caught up in Szalay's myth-weaving dialogue: there's a debate over which classic-era arena was better (Maple Leaf Gardens or the Montreal Forum?), there's the story of Gordie Howe's humble beginnings, told with the reverent yet slightly fanboyish intonations of a superhero origin story, and there's the legendary story of Maurice Richard's single-handed against-all-odds victory against the Boston Bruins in '55.

For the first two acts (the play is split into three short acts and two intermissions) things click along nicely. Neil and Darcy bicker and elucidate their personal histories. The set dressing is minimal, but the performances, aided by some evocative sound design, hold the stage just fine.

The first two acts are almost pitch-perfect, in fact, which is all the more

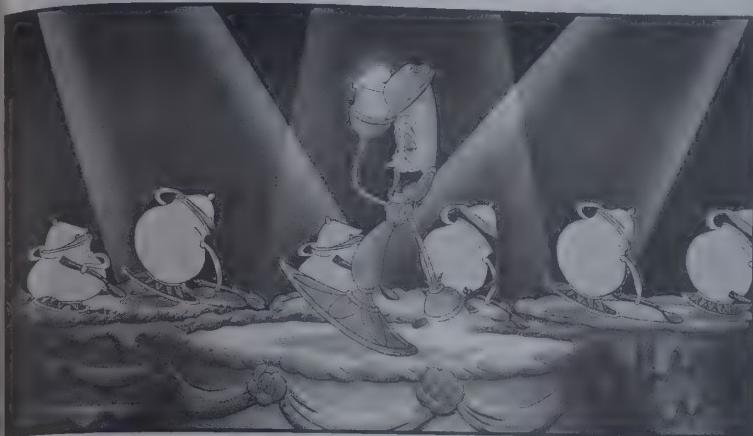
reason for some disappointment in the third act falls victim to an unlikely plot turn and some unconvinced slapstick, which in turn gives way to some fairly maudlin talk about the true spirit of hockey, etc., etc. There's a life lesson to be learned by the end of the play, but it feels forced on the audiences, not to mention the characters. It would have been nice for Neil and Darcy to reach their epiphanies for themselves rather than have it all spelled out for them so plainly.

Still, with such generous performances and acute insights into our national obsession, it's easy to forgive relatively minor missteps. And at least it has the distinction of being the only play I've ever seen that opens with a singing of the national anthem—even if it is interrupted by an angry voice from backstage shouting, "Pronger sucks!"

Oh, now I get it.

PREVIEW · THEATRE QUESTIONNAIRE! · BY PAUL MATWYCHUK | 64 words

No Rest for the Wicked



John Be Nimble, John Be Quick! John Ulyatt's playing a candlestick—in the live version of Disney's animated musical *Beauty and the Beast*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST'S JOHN ULYATT ILLUMINATES THE FINE ART OF PLAYING A TALKING CANDLESTICK—ER, CANDLESTICKA

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Directed by Bob Baker. Starring Kharyla Blash, Réean Cournoyer, Larry Yachimer, John Ulyatt. Until Feb. 24. Shoror Theatre, The Citadel. Tickets available at the Citadel box office (425-1820).

After essaying the leads in such deep-dish dramas as *I Am My Own Wife*, *The Shape of Things*, and *The Pillowman*—not to mention such so-gigantically significant musicals as *Cabaret*

inanimate objects. It was crazy, experimental! Trees, popcorn, razors... I believe that was only after the success of *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway that theatre schools began introducing training components for candles, clocks, wardrobes, teapots, feather dusters and so on. At Vic, they started specific training for teacups. Now, I understand, there are musical theatre schools all over Ontario offering training for objects, as evidenced by the incredibly talented ensemble in this production.

In the film, Lumière carries on

"IN PREPARATION FOR THIS ROLE, I DID SPEND AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME WITH A SWIFFER." —JOHN ULYATT, ON THE EROTIC INNER LIFE OF HIS BEAUTY AND THE BEAST CHARACTER

and *West Side Story*, it might seem a little beneath John Ulyatt's dignity to play the talking candlestick Lumière in The Citadel's production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

But Ulyatt doesn't see it that way—and he proved it by gamely submitting to *SCE*'s latest impudent Theatre Questionnaire.

Do you prefer "candlestick" or "candelabra"?

I guess, technically speaking, I am portraying a candelabra. Candlestick refers to a solitary candle, and although I am a solitary being onstage, I sport three actual candles, representing the id, the ego and the superego. I think it's the id that doesn't physically ignite. It's the one on my head, which is, in my mind at least, burning with white-hot fire. So hot that it can't be seen.

How did your extensive acting training prepare you to play a candlestick?

Back in theatre school we were only toying with the idea of being

with a Swiffer. There were some issues around the house, like "Hey, come on. You dusted this morning" and "What do you see in that duster, that you have to gaze at it for such extended periods of time?" But I just appreciate the plastic handle, the way it fits my hand. And the strange cloth with the perforated strips. What's it made of? What does it feel—inside? What is its inner tempo?

Lumière's big number is "Be Our Guest," in which he presides over the table while Belle is served a fancy dinner. You're an actor—have you ever worked as a waiter?

I worked as a waiter at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Waterton. There were bus tours where people would ask when the glacier was going to go by, and when the evergreen trees changed colour. I wish I was kidding. I also convinced some people that my name, John, with PQ (representing where I was from—Province of Quebec), was in fact my Vietnamese last name. I wish I was kidding about

that too. It was a more innocent time. Before 9/11.

Jerry Orbach provided Lumière's voice in the original film. Are there any other Jerry Orbach roles you would love to play? The father in *Dirty Dancing*? The private eye on *Murder She Wrote*? Or are you a Lennie Briscoe man all the way?

I love *Law & Order* and all its spinoffs. I am definitely a Lennie Briscoe man. Always a great wisecrack in the face of deepest tragedy. Sardonistic. He brought all that to Lumière. And his impersonation of Maurice Chevalier. I have great respect for his life and career. Apparently he plays an uncredited role as a barber's customer in the 1955 film of *Guy and Dolls*. I didn't know that when I read this question, I found that out on Wikipedia.

Can your fans expect to see you playing any other inanimate objects in the future?

I only have one fan. I bought it from Bryce Kulak for 20 bucks before he moved to Toronto.



- 1 Low Flo Rida
- 2 Apologize Timbaland
- 3 Crank That (Soulja Boy) Soulja Boy
- 4 Don't Stop The Music Rihanna
- 5 Piece Of Me Britney Spears
- 6 For The Nights I Can't Remember Hedley
- 7 The Way I Are Timbaland
- 8 Still Will 50 Cent
- 9 Stronger Kanye West
- 10 Good Life Kanye West

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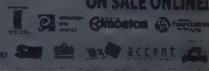
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ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL 1018-106 ST., 488-6617 EXT. 221, Until APR 19 "Contained: Protected or Prison", various artists. Until FEB 16 "The Recipients' Exhibition", showcasing winners of the 2007 Alberta Craft Council Awards. Info: www.albertacraft.ca

THE ARTERY 53 JASPER AVE. Until FEB 7 "Cartlight Rematch?", works examining female violence, contributors include Tammy Stoltz, Penny du Bouker, Marian Switzer, Ashley Andel, and others. Hours: Tu-Sa 10 am-5 pm; or by appointment. Info: theartery.ca

ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA ENTERPRISE SQUARE, #100, 10230 JASPER AVE., 422-6223 Until FEB 17 "F. H. Varley: Portraits into the Light", an in-depth look at the portraiture of Frederick Varley. "Re-drawing the Line", works from the U of A's Graduate Studies. Until MAR 24 "Generation", nine artists explore the images, ideals, and anomalies of North American youth; "Small", artistic responses to perceptions of balance, proportion, and scale; "Window Dressing: Shani Krepelkovich", the history and politics of department store displays using the 102 St. windows of the former Bay store. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm; the 4-8 pm free admission. Sat & Sun 11 am-5 pm. Info: artgalerieyalberta.ca

SEX • THE RELATIONSHIP RUT | 669 words

The Pattern Is Obvious!



It's Not Polite to Point... | ...but it's the best way to let you know you're the one messing up your love life. PHOTO SUPPLIED



**MESSY BEDROOM JOSEY VOGELS
IF YOUR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS KEEP GOING WRONG IN
THE SAME WAY, THE LIKELIEST CAUSE IS YOU**

Do you find that in every relationship you eventually get an eerie feeling like you've been there before? This, despite the fact that when you started out, you really, really felt like the one was different—only to have it turn into a tired, recycled version of the last relationship?

Many of us go out with partners who treat us badly, for example, because that's what we're used to, something that was set up some-

Sometimes just keeping a journal will reveal patterns to you.

Then comes the hard part: breaking them.

You can start the moment you lay eyes on your next bad relationship. Maybe you're not listening to each other, for starters. You may think you're listening, but you're not—you're too busy thinking "Hmmm... he's a bit short, and he's kinda got a funny nose, but maybe... let me think, could I imagine getting naked with him?"

And once you're done going down your mental list, you're thinking, "Is that zit on my face really showing, or do I have B.O.?"

So even if there's a wild attraction, you're too busy having an internal dialogue about the other person's earlobes to know if you actually get along.

This inability to listen often extends well into the relationship. Like when he says he has a hard time

MAYBE YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO EACH OTHER. YOU'RE TOO BUSY THINKING, "HMM... HE'S A BIT SHORT, AND HE'S KINDA GOT A FUNNY NOSE. COULD I IMAGINE GETTING NAKED WITH HIM? AND IS THAT ZIT ON MY FACE REALLY SHOWING, OR DO I HAVE B.O.?

where along the way because of, say, low self-esteem. But it's not just low self-esteem that gets us in trouble. Some of us seem to only be able to go out with people we can push around. Maybe a little too much confidence? So how do we stop repeating our relationship with our mother, father, first love, childhood pet, or whatever example we're following later in life? The first thing is to be aware of your patterns. And not everyone needs to resort to therapy to uncover them.

getting close, what you might hear is "Once he falls madly in love with me, he'll overcome his fear of getting close and everything will be fine." In fact, you'd be much better off if you took his words at face value and moved on.

You also need to listen to the messages you give yourself. You are not inferior because you constantly go out with people who treat you like shit or because you push away every person who tries to get close to you.



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Making the Beast With Two Backs (and Six Legs)



SAVAGE LOVE DAN SAVAGE

IF I'M ATTRACTED TO ANIMALS, AND NOT AT ALL TO HUMANS, DO I LIVE A LIE OR BUILD A GIANT BACKYARD?

I'm a 25-year-old male. I'm a zoophile and always have been. I'm a longtime reader (I'm sure you're thrilled), so I know my interests aren't on your approved list of sexual activities. Not trying to argue that point. However, it's clear what turns my head when I walk down the street and it's never the person holding the leash. I know from your column and many oth-

er sources that once your brain is "wired" a certain way, "rewiring" it is unlikely, so this isn't going to go away. What do I do?

Currently, I don't date. I was married once, briefly, never had sex, marriage quickly annulled. I currently have no sexual attraction to any human, male or female, so I don't feel the need to date. Also, sharing this information would probably end in horror, tears, and my needing to move out of state. However, a lifetime without a relationship (two-legged or four-legged) seems unappealing. Here are the options I see:

(1) Get a shrink (who I can talk to about this) and a girlfriend or boyfriend (who I can't talk to about it) and, in terms of the sex, master giving head since my dick won't want to join the party.

(2) Buy a house with a big yard

and... well, you know.

I don't care if you print this. I'd just like another opinion. I mean, honestly, who else would answer this question anonymously, for free, and whose judgment I actually have faith in?

Really Unsure For Future

moral authority when it comes time to lecture those of you who wanna smooch the pooch.

Finally, RUFF, build a nice, tall fence around that yard, okay? And seeing a shrink probably won't make you wanna screw humans but, hey, it couldn't hurt.

In short... my advice... which is really going to annoy Mike "Man and Animal" Huckabee... is... um... to buy that big house, RUFF, one with a nice, big yard... and do what you gotta do. Inside, please, shades drawn.

BESTIALITY IS WRONG, WRONG, WRONG, because an animal cannot give its consent. But... uh... anyone who's ever actually owned a boy dog knows that most would be only too delighted to... um... well, you know.

I'm assuming that you want to be fucked by dogs, of course, as that's almost always the case with dudes into dogs. Man-on-dog is a whole lot stronger than dog-on-man, if I may use a certain former senator's formulation, most importantly for reasons of safety for the animal, so I don't smile on man-on-dog. (Actually, I don't smile on the dog-on-man, either—it's more like "grimace, cover eyes, look away," but, hey, that's the reaction I have to cunnilingus.) Take a torn-up girl dog to the vet, RUFF, and you're going to wind up talking with the police and having to cross a PETA picket line to get back into your house—and it'll serve you right.

For the record, I'm anti-bestiality (and very much pro-cunnilingus). I think fucking dogs is wrong, wrong, wrong. But I had pork and beef and chicken at dinner last night—all 100 percent factory-farmed meat, derived from animals that were cruelly tortured every second of their brief and miserable existence. We murder animals for their flesh, skins, fur, and just for the fuck of it.

Those of us who eat meat, wear fur, run around in leather pants, jackets, shoes, restraints, etc. and kill animals for sport don't have much

You helped take out Rick Santorum by naming a sex-related term after him and now the time has come for you to do the same for GOP hopeful Mike Huckabee. He has compared homosexuality to bestiality in an interview, just like Santorum, and more than once. Huckabee most recently came out against changing "the definition of marriage so that it can mean two men, two women, a man and three women, a man and a child, a man and animal."

So what do you think, Dan? Isn't it time for a contest to name a sex act The Huckabee?

Save In Olympia

Every time someone says something idiotic in public—myself included—I get letters from readers angrily demanding that Ann Coulter, Stephen Harper, Dick Cheney, Antonin Scalia, myself, et al., get the "santorum treatment" (which sounds almost as disgusting as the substance itself). Honestly, this is the first time I can say that I've been tempted. But Huckabee remains a longshot for the GOP nomination, DIO, so it's entirely possible that we'll be rid of Huckabee in a few weeks' time—hell, he could be out of it before this column gets printed.

But just in case Huckabee is the nominee—he, you can't be too careful—I'm going to invite my readers to send their suggested definitions for The Huckabee to huckabee@savagelove.net.

On my 21st birthday, my mother got so shitty drunk that she had to buy a pair of pants off a gas-

station attendant after she pissed her own. She dropped her giant bag of pot in the limo. We put her to bed and she got up and tried to screw my roommate. Then she fell out of the top bunk of his bed and hurt herself so bad she grabbed her car keys and left. She got a DWI on the way to the hospital where they found out she broke her rib. What does all of this do to my psyche?

Please Answer Me

Nothing good, PAM. But I can't imagine that your mother's behaviour on your 21st birthday did more damage to your psyche than your mother seeing her behaviour recounted in a nationally syndicated sex-advice column is going to do to hers. So you're your mother's daughter after all

Loads of gay men read your column. This makes you a good person to spread the word about the crazy "flesh-eating" MRSA strain that is running rampant in communities of gay men in Boston and San Francisco.

According to the studies reported in *The New York Times*, gay men in SF are 13 times more likely to have this nasty staph bacteria than the rest of the population in the area. Infection results in gross and horrible problems like abscesses and ulcers (usually in the buttocks and genitalia). The bacteria is resistant to not only first-line antibiotics but also two of the three other medications recommended by the CDC. Maybe you could help inform people and keep them from getting infected with ass-and-genital-flesh-eating bacteria?

Keep It Clean

Not all gay men listen to me—things wouldn't look so grim for us on the STI front if more did—but for what it's worth:

Gay men can easily protect themselves from this new strain of MRSA. According to docs, it's as simple as scrubbing with soap and water after skin-to-skin contact. Gay men should also reduce the number of our sex partners. Here's some good advice we got at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic: "Have more sex with fewer people." That was an effective health strategy back in the day—guys who took it to heart tended to live—and it would be nice to see today's gay men adopt/readapt the more sex/fewer people strategy before the infectious shit hits the epidemiological fan. Again.

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JANUARY 24 TO 30

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Runnin' low on inspiration? Feelin' frustration 'cause you're stuck when it comes to artistic creation? Processes of meditation need stimulation? Well, this week, one way to get your juices flowin' and start mentally growin' is to think all the stuff you don't need on the ride and leave the findin' a darn good blowin'!

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)

Bell's had back to the best way to express yourself through your fingers before this Wednesday. If you want what you desire, it's time to turn up the fire 'cause it ain't somethin' you can acquire through waitin'. You can cool your supper in lukewarm water, and if happiness is all you gotta get, then it's all you gotta do.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)

You've got a hunger, you know what you need and how to satisfy your hankerin'. It's time to feed. Naturally this'll come with a cost 'cause everything you gain'll be someone else's loss. Well, it's painful to you or somebody else, then so be it. You've come too far for your foodie addiction to quit!

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

This is one o' those weeks where you need to learn that sometimes it's bad business for you to be overly stubborn. If you simply let fate take its own course, in the end you'll be better off. However, if you try to mould reality to your vision, things won't come together. The look, fracture and fission?

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

In a world of chaos and disarray it's hard to know which cards are best to play. Just 'cause you've got the trophy, champagne and all that when it's over, it's the excitement on the road that you miss. Enjoy your time at the top, but don't let your skills go to sleep 'cause you're racin' again soon — you've got a championship to keep!

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)

Like all races, finishin' first's a blast 'cause you get more than the one who came last. Of course you get the trophy, champagne and all that when it's over, it's the excitement on the road that you miss. Enjoy your time at the top, but don't let your skills go to sleep 'cause you're racin' again soon — you've got a championship to keep!

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)

If you want things to work out, you've got to

end on thday; concentrate this week makin' your efforts pay off. You're in investor's limon! Show your profit, it's time to buck up your portfolio a bit. Spend both your time and your money pragmatically — and you happiness'll follow proportionately!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

This week someone will teach you a lesson you need — that failure is often the best way to succeed. Either Rogers you're in need of perfection or else it's you're in the right direction. Either way, it's a beneficial correction. This week, when things don't work out, remember that forget your self-doubt!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

Now ain't the time to meddle in others affairs, cause even if you resign, nobody cares. You've got housekeepin' on your mind, and people will be your master. Your actions ain't showin' what your words say — when just hold on now! The best way to a positive influence is not how you talk, but how you live!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Are you sure you're really doin' the right thing, or are you more concerned with what reward will bring? You'd better be pretty damn sure your motives before you start interferin' with how someone else does. It makes you look good rather than bery little enjoyment in the lump of coal another soul the hem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Even if it looks like you're gon' win, there's no reason to follow the glove in. There's always a chance they're gonna steal the award, so save you before the end. You and your get shot... I festivell know you've given up. You've got like they said in the wild, Wild West, if you gotta live down with your boots on, best do it!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

It's not like you planned to land on quicksand but that's where you stand in a new year. You're startin' to struggle in escapin' the more you fight, the more you dig yourself deeper, and the more the way. Escapade becomes deeper. This weekend, keep completely still before it's time that just time you kill!

You can contact The Kid at
crusintheinfinity@hotmail.com

No liability 18+.

Restrictions may apply.

TRY 4 FREE

Meet SEXY, WILD Guys!

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403-770-0776 1-900-451-1441

Try SEXY Chat for FREE

HOT BABES with *clickin' sex*

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1-900-451-3333 \$25/30min

Quest

Try it FREE

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Dial #CHAT (#2428) with Bell,
Rogers or Fido. Calls cost 79¢/min.
Mobile pay, text "QUEST" to 77003
\$5.00/10min

Edmonton
780-669-2323

PAY BY PHONE: 1-900-548-4444

*Free trial not applicable to #CHAT calls. No liability 18+. Restrictions may apply. *Plan not for Rogers Fido.

Little Miss FLIRTY is waiting to hear from you!

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TRY IT FREE

call now!
EDMONTON
780-702-3007

I-900 Pricing Options!
CALL NOW 1-900-528-2543

ON the Go? Dial #CLICK™ (#25425)
Only 79¢/minute. Available on Bell, Rogers™ & Fido

lavalive* Where singles click.*

MIND BLOWING CHAT
Hours of explicit chat with sexy locals

CALL NOW!
EDMONTON
780-702-4489

Try our 900 number: 1-900-528-1122 at \$20/30 min. NEW! nightexchange.com



*Plan not for Rogers Fido.

Taxes extra.

classifieds

PHONE: 430-9003 | FAX: 432-1102 | EMAIL: classifieds@see.greatwest.ca

130. Coming Events

130. Coming Events

Main on Whyte NEW

Arts & Crafts Market
Saturday & Sunday
Year Round
10 am to 4 pm
10568-82 Avenue
For booking info
Call 436-8538

Learn to Meditate. Amitabha Kadampa Buddhist Centre. Thursday & Friday nights. \$84-5705 or email info@meditationedmonton.org

0135. I Saw You

Mindy chatted with you and your friend walking Jasper Ave Jan 17 @ 5. Single? snarkisbooom@gmail.com

195. Personals

EyesScoops.com totally free personal ads. lifestyles

I'm beautiful girl living in Toronto looking for a nice man aged between 40-55. I'm 42 yrs old. You must be educated, open, kind, and ready to start a new life. Please email jkomusinguzi@yahoo.com

I'm beautiful, open, patient girl, 39 yrs old, looking for a serious nice open good looking gentleman 39-50 yrs, to share life with. Please email me @ Little_mamma@hotmail.com

200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

EAST SIDE Auto Body in Hanna for sale. Complete with building and equipment, busy until April. Call for engines. 403-854-3161 or 403-854-0192.

GOLD CANYON CANDLES Looking for Demonstrators in your area. Minimal investment. Great opportunities and incentives. Contact independent Demonstrator, Sylwanna 780-624-8730. Email: sriczu@wisparr.net. Website: www.mygcandle.com

NEED EXTRA CASH? Get a \$1000/week at home stuffing envelopes. Rush self addressed stamped envelope to Box 3861, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 3B1

1005. Help Wanted

classifieds

PHONE: 430-9003 | FAX: 432-1102 | EMAIL: classifieds@see.greatwest.ca

1600. Volunteers Wanted

Ever thought volunteering was for the dogs? Try volunteering with your pet - call Deanna 413-4682 (www.pettherapistsociety.com)

Grief Writer. Help a brain-injured

widow, mid 30's, write her life story. Volunteer with good listening skills, writing skills and computer skills wanted. Commitment: 2 hrs/wk for 4-6 months or project completion. Old Strathcona area. Ellen @ 432-1137, ext. 362.

Heart Campaign: Kit assemblers, between now and February 2008 we need you! Suit your schedule days/evenings/or weekends. If you are available for 3 (3) or more hours per week, for three or more weeks, call the Heart & Stroke Foundation now and ask for Karen or Laura at 451-4545.

HELP to broadcast news nationally

for the blind and print-

restricted Email: edmonton@voiceprintcanada.com, 451-8331.

HOPE Home volunteers visit isolated neighbors, go for walks, help with errands. Call Capital Health Home Care 496-1300

Homework Tutors. Homework help is needed for children & youth in care who require a stable support to ensure their academic success. 1.5 hrs/week, evenings or weekends. Staff support. Various locations. Ellen @ 432-1137, ext. 362.

Literacy Tutors/Tutoring

needed to assist adults with disabilities learn basic reading and writing skills. Tutor reading, materials, and support provided. 1-to-1 matches. Flexible hours, 1-2 hrs/wk. Various local locations. Ellen @ 432-1137, ext. 362.

Little Warriors is helping protect

children from sexual abuse, you can too! Please phone 447-1343.

Make a difference in your community! The Can-O-Fun Fund is looking for volunteers to help with daily activities such as crafts, card games and socializing. If you can spare a few hours each week and would like to have fun, call 434-4747 Ext. 4

Mentor for Children & Youth. Be

a friendly mentor to child-

youngly living in group care.

Caring adults needed to share

time and interests. 2 hours/week,

evenings or weekends. Various

locations. Ellen @ 432-1137, ext.

362.

Participate in research of brain

function at UofA! Right-handed

men 30-60. Reimbursement pro-

vided. Call 604-0048.

Seniors Recreation Activity

Aides. Volunteers needed to par-

ticipate in recreation activities

(crafts, scrap booking, bingo,

baking etc.) with seniors and

seniors living in new extended

care facility in north east Edmon-

ton. On-site support provided.

Daytime or evening placements

available, 2 hrs/week. Ellen @

432-1137, ext. 362.

Take advantage of this volunteer

experience of a lifetime! Become

a friend to a NEW Canadian

and share a life changing experience.

Contact Dular at 474-8554

The Ice On Why Festival needs

volunteers!

Have fun! January 17-27, visit

<http://iceonwhy.com> or call

Angela at 987-0394 for more info.

VOLUNTEER TUTORS needed.

Can you read this? Many can't!

Become a tutor and share the gift

of reading. Call PALS at

424-4514 to help change a life

through literacy. Training and

materials are provided.

VOLUNTEERS NEED YOUR

Leftover Wool and Extra Knitting

Need to knit warm items for

other newly arrived immigrants.

Call Lucia 424-3545, ext. 230.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! To as-

sure new immigrants on a first

2-to-3 week, occasional, weekdays.

Call Judy 424-3545 ext. 249.

Volunteers Needed! To help new-

comers with filing tax returns.

Call Judy 424-3545, ext. 249.

1600. Volunteers Wanted

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! To help Somali children with homework. Begins in September. 2 Eves/wk. Northside location. Call Judy 424-3545, ext. 249.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED To teach English to adult immigrants. Flexible daytime, days/weeks. 3-4hrs/wk. No exp. req., various locations. Call Judy 424-3545, ext. 249.

Walking Coaches. Get fit and have fun walking and socializing with a small group of adults with developmental disabilities, living independently in the community. Walking is preceded by sup-/snack together. 5:30 pm-8:30 pm, every second Friday at Mount Royal. Staff support provided. Ellen @ 432-1137, ext. 362.

2005. Artist to Artist

Artists req. for children's t-shirt project (line drawings in black). Phone: 993-5802.

LEARN TO STILTWALK! Reach New Heights with the Edmonton Stiltwalkers every 2nd Sunday starting February 3rd. Contact Randall Fraser @ 242-1120 or luckywolfcreations@yahoo.ca

MODELS WANTED Hardcourt House Arts Centre is hiring female and male models for photo shooting classes. No experience necessary. Times variable. Phone 426-4180 for more information.

Solo artist demos \$300-\$500. Professionally produced. Call for details, serious inquiries only. 297-ROCK.

Sports photographer needed for occasional events, must be available weekends, and willing to travel. 866-7353.

Student filmmaker looking for MALE LEAD (20s), and SPP. PORTING FEMALE (20s). Call Justin @ (780) 691-7055.

The Works 2008! Art Market/Street Stage! Deadline February 15! The 2009 Call for EXHIBITS! Deadline Jan 25 Download applications [www.theworks.ab.ca](http://theworks.ab.ca)

Voice lessons. Learn to project and free your spirit. 297-ROCK.

Wanna learn to play the drums? How about some guitar lessons? Musicians available, 297-ROCK. Call for details, serious inquiries only.

2010. Musicians Available

Bassist available for retro cover band. 50's/60's/70's/80's. Derrick @ 918-7413

Drummer Available. Only to those who can actually play. Drop me a line at 995-6378.

Female vocalist looking to join a band, country, rock or blues, you can reach me at (780) 233-6597 or char_cox@hotmail.com

Guitarist w/ transport seeks like-minded. For band Black Dahlia Murder, Kataklasm Amon Amarth, Slayer 23+ profer

463-5974

Producer/Engineer seeks bands/performers to work with. Strong portfolio. blickpro@gmail.com

Professional pianist/organist available for weddings, corporate parties or other events, 23 yrs exp. Visit wendyjenkins.ca or call 401-1046 to 116.

Professional singer available, SOCAN registered, plays everything, pro-level, great gear, over 25, seriously only. 860-8277.

Singer looking for experimental/prog. rock band, influences MJK, Tom York, Mike Patton. Call Art @ 966-6166.

Singers! songwriter, guitarist seek guitarist, lead bassist for new project. Call 756-653 after 6:00 pm.

2020. Musicians Wanted

Above the Ashes(Metal)needs Studio Drummer and F/T Screens w/ Voice. Serious musicians!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! To assemble shopping trip for essentials, 2-3 hrs. occasional, weekdays. Call Judy 424-3545 ext. 249.

Volunteers Needed! To help new-

comers with filing tax returns. Call Judy 424-3545, ext. 249.

2020. Musicians Wanted

ATSO Seeking Drummer and 2nd guitarist have jam space and PA. Must have good gear. 217-5985/6pm leave message

Bass player needed for regular jamming and P/T gigging, classic rock, old rock and some original. Call Rod 454-8426.

Bass player with back-up vocals wanted f Roots (folk, country, rock, blues) music! Marv @ 240-1509. www.marmachura.com

Bass/keyboard/drummer wanted for P/T country/rock band. Vocals an asset. 443-1153

Dirty Habit seeks dedicated lead guitarist. www.mydirtyhabitband.com, e-mail mydirtyhabitband@gmail.com or call 238-2994 jesse 303-3744

Drummer and Keyboard Player wanted for old geyser rock band; Stones, Beatles, Santana, call Util 498 1056

Drummer needed for jamming and occasional gigging. Call Rod 454-8426.

SMITH
MUSIC
Recording Studio
\$132 / Song
For a 5 Piece Band
457-6495

FACE FIRST looking for drummer, serious inquiries only. Call Johnny 471-4710.

folk singer/songwriter looking for guitarist to accompany me...live shows and recording is goal. Call Chris at (780)901-7055.

The Works 2008! Art Market/Street Stage! Deadline February 15! The 2009 Call for EXHIBITS! Deadline Jan 25 Download applications [www.theworks.ab.ca](http://theworks.ab.ca)

Voice lessons. Learn to project and free your spirit. 297-ROCK.

Wanna learn to play the drums? How about some guitar lessons? Musicians available, 297-ROCK. Call for details, serious inquiries only.

3010. Auctions

BE YOUR OWN BOSS. Learn to be an auctioneer. Next course March 3 - 14 at Westlock. Western Canadian School of Auctioneering, Westlock, Alberta. 1-888-954-3891; www.westlock.auctions.com

CLOSEOUT! FOUNTAIN Tire Ltd. Drayton Valley, Alberta. Sat. under Feb. 20th, 11 am. Selling shop equipment plus 800 sq. ft.

commercial building in downtown Drayton Valley, former Fountain Tire Store. Real estate inquiries, Roger Coles, Century 21, 780-621-6809. Info: www.lindstrand.auctions.ca, Ltd., 1-800-251-1441; www.lindstrand.auctions.ca

NO MONEY DOWN! Dell computers! LCD TVs! "Credit builder". Almost everyone approved. Quick delivery. No deposit ever! (*Must earn \$1500+ employed).

You need: 2 GB RAM, 500 GB HD, 19" LCD flat panel, Windows Vista and 6 Microsoft software titles (*Call for conditions)

NEW LOADED COMPUTER only 99 cents/day! Everyone's approved! Get an MDG computer right to your doorstep from only 99 cents/day. Includes everything you need: 2 GB RAM, 500 GB HD, 19" LCD flat panel, Windows Vista and 6 Microsoft software titles (*Call for conditions)

POOL TABLE 1* 3 piece slate, 8 ft. Professional Series, Solid wood with all accessories. Brand New still boxed. Cost \$600. Sell \$195.00. Sacrifice for \$179.00. Call 780-265-2426.

SAWMILLS from only \$3,495. Convert your logs to valuable lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available; www.norwoodindustries.com. Free information. 1-800-568-6699 ext. 4000.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION. 500+ acres and equipment to be auctioned unreserved April 26/08, Quesnell, BC. For more info: Sekura Auctions, 780-542-4337; www.sekuraauctions.com

THE CONTAINER GUY 20, 40 and 48' containers. Also Reefers available. Weather, bug and rodent proof for storage. Will deliver anywhere. Excellent condition. Information phone 780-307-4655.

3125. Computers/Software

Karaoke Songs Online. Over 10,000 Titles. FREE Player and Gift Pack. Singles Start at \$0.99. www.tricerasoft.com/songs.htm

3190. Musical Instruments

FAST, AFFORDABLE GUITAR REPAIRS. Factory trained technicians.

St. John's Music 10452 Mayfield Road (780) 452-4810

www.stjohnsmusic.com

TIMELESS AUCTION - Rill Strom, January 28! Buyers/sellers: Call 1-800-201-0864.

3210. Misc. For Sale

#1 A STEEL Building Sale! Up to 60% on your new garage, shop, warehouse. 6 colours available! 40 year guarantee! Free shipping for the first 20 callers! www.crownsteelbuildings.com. \$800+

AFFORDABLE PHONE Reconstruction. Bad credit - no problem!

Call Tembo Telecom and ask about our new customer special. Sign up online and save \$20. 1-877-265-6300; www.tembotel.com.

2070. Studio/Rehearsal Space

REHEARSAL SPACES for rent.

Clean, 24 hour access. Call Brad @ 439-1889.

Chinese traditional body & feet deep tissue massage by registered therapist. 443-6221. 11639-97.

Christy's outgoing massage. Have car, can travel. Fluent in German. Call any time. 964-736.

CHRISTY'S OUTGOING MASSAGE.

Have car, can travel. Fluent in German. Call any time.

CHINESE TRADITIONAL BODY & FEET DEEP TISSUE MASSAGE.

Christy's outgoing massage.

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Have car, can travel. Fluent in German. Call any time.

3400. Pets & Supplies

CHOCOLATE, BLACK, silver, white Labrador Puppies. 2 year health guarantee 5 week \$1150. Ckc registered, dewormed, 2nd shots vet checked. Stud services. 1-403-653-3662; www.purecountrylab.com. \$800+

3401. Farm Stuff

FOR SALE. Rodent proof 40' and 20' sea containers. 5' X 10' corrals panels starting at \$55. 403-226-1722; 403-540-4164; 1-866-517-8335; www.magnateteel.com.

3402. HEAT CANOLA WANTED.

Buying green, damaged, spring thrashed canola. Buying wheat, barley, oats and peas for feed. On farm pickup? Westcan Feed & Grain 1-877-256-5325.

3403. Real Estate Misc.

20' WIDES on sale now! 3 and 4 bedroom clearance. Many floorplans to choose from including home theatre rooms. Best Buy Homes, 1-877-739-5654.

3404. Steel Buildings

FOR SALE. Rodent proof 40' and 20' sea containers. 5' X 10' corrals panels starting at \$55. 403-226-1722; 403-540-4164; 1-866-517-8335; www.magnateteel.com.

3405. Better Sleep!

Memory Foam orthopedic mattresses. NASA technology. Buy direct and save \$\$\$\$. Queen \$499, (all sizes available). Call 1-800-568-6553 ext. 170 for free brochure.

3406. GUARANTEED BETTER Sleep!

Memory Foam orthopedic mattresses. NASA technology. Buy direct and save \$\$\$\$. Queen \$499, (all sizes available). Call 1-800-568-6553 ext. 170 for free brochure.

3407. HOT TUB 2007.

New still in plastic wrap. Ozonator, full warranty. Cost \$8,500. Sacrifice \$1,000. Call 780-285-2426.

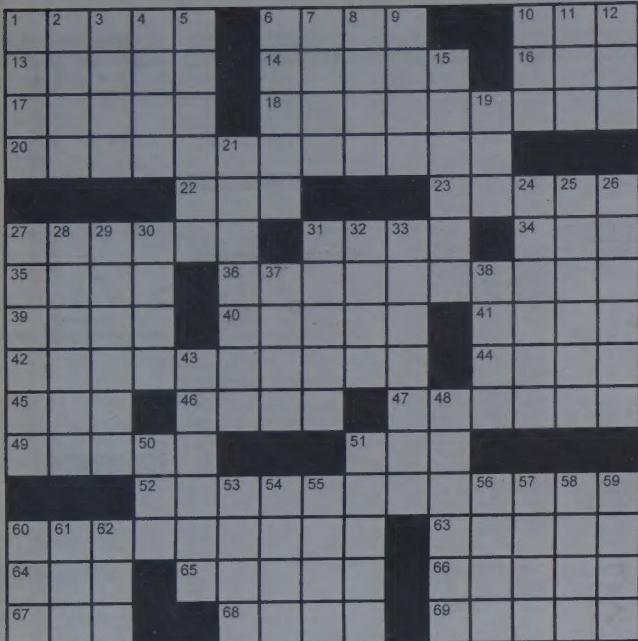
3408. HOT TUB/SPA 2007 - All options.

With full warranty. Brand new still in plastic wrap. Cost \$8,900. Sacrifice \$1,000. Call 780-285-3408; www.ltcshaw.ca

3409. METAL SIDING/ROOFING.

Best prices! 10'x10'x36' Toughrig 29ga. Galvalume. \$6.99 sq. ft. Stock and S/O Colours \$4.99. Call 1-800-250-0070. www.alta-builders.com

3410. COSTA RICA CALLING.



BARDBARA VASSALS
EMERGED IRONPEAK
REGAUGE OMAROSA
TRAVAIL LLOB LOLL
RIDE FIFTEEN
ACED TEEED ADE
MAST TORN MAD

FCC EVAN WHITE
OLA HARIBO ATOM
REAGAMYTH TEM
MAIL KETTLE
URE TRAISTERIN
LETMEIN HORIZON
ADVISED INSPECT

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

VOTE EARLY

AN INVASION OF THE FIRST SIX US STATES TO CAST BALLOTS

JONESIN' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

- ACROSS**
- 1 Prone to pouting
 - 6 Itchy material
 - 10 Pen (injector) carried around by allergy sufferers
 - 13 Function of some Blackberries
 - 14 Wing it
 - 16 Chess pieces
 - 17 They're now seen in Cypress
 - 18 Where a ship's log is kept when not at sea?
 - 20 T-shirt icon made of taffy?
 - 22 Alley?
 - 23 "The Black ___" (first of a Rowan Atkinson Britcom series)
 - 27 Visit the restaurant
 - 30 Muppets song "There's a ... Want to Know"
 - 34 The Plastic Band
 - 35 Express lane unit
 - 36 Coined bit of language used by hockey players?
 - 39 Word after "greater" or "lesser"
 - 40 Boogie ("The Nightmare Before Christmas" character)
 - 41 Radio host: Carolla
 - 42 Giant ape trained to return to its place of origin?
 - 44 Melodic mode in Indian classical music
 - 45 Australian bird
 - 46 Cos. concerned with fair hiring
 - 47 Hal of "Barney Miller"
 - 49 Drive away
 - 51 Coop dweller
 - 52 Someone who summons...when they get around to it?
 - 60 Stoner born in March, perhaps?
 - 63 Wear away
 - 64 She's one baaaaaad mother
 - 65 Omit, like the "I" in "Sweet Pea"
 - 66 Sans-__ (typeface type)

67 ___ and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance"

68 Linear, unlike holographic images

69 Vocal qualities

DOWN

1 Built on ___

2 "No way"

3 Back history

4 ___nothingism

5 Words said after a surprised "Me?"

6 Make a ball out of

7 He was played by a real dog in "Garfield: The Movie"

8 Name for a Norwegian king

9 Italian currency, during Y2K

10 My Chemical Romance genre

11 Chest muscle

12 Tattoo parlor expense

15 How the airplane-phobic may travel

19 Tie recipient

21 "Later"

24 Thingy

25 Piss off to the nth degree

26 Basketballer nicknamed "Dennis the Menace"

27 "This one or that one...I don't really care"

28 Not out

29 Organize

30 Discontinued Dodge

31 Bricks for kids

32 "Come right ___!"

33 New York NASCAR race track, to fans

37 Congressman Martin ___, who lost his seat to Dennis Kucinich in 1996

38 Sound the alarm

43 "Obligatory Villagers" singer-songwriter

McKay

48 Put money into

50 Medium letters

51 Screwed over

53 Home to the Kon-Tiki Museum

54 Radio station whose call letters include the first three letters of its Ohio city

55 Yield by treaty

56 Cookie sometimes deep-fried

57 "Freak on a Leash" band

58 Falco who guest starred on "30 Rock"

59 Lacrosse arbiters

60 ___ dispenser

61 Be in the red

62 Perfection, sometimes

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(editor@jonesincrosswords.com)

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TOM the DANCING BUG
BY RUBEN BOLLING



EXCUSE ME AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO SEES THAT THIS GUY WANTS TO COME IN?

NATE, TO BALANCE OUT OUR PLUNDITS WHO ARE OCCASIONALLY RIGHT, WE'D LIKE YOU TO WRITE SOME OPED PIECES FOR US!

HEY, IT'S EASIER TO USE THE WASHER!

HMM... COMMITTED SUICIDE WHEN HE SAW ME. MUST HAVE BEEN A REMORSEFUL CUT-AND-RUNNER!

THIS POOR FELLOW IS OBVIOUSLY HUNGRY! HERE, HAVE A TURKEY SANDWICH!

MMPH, MMPH

IMPRESSIVE! YOU WERE DISASTROUSLY WRONG AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME HORRIBLE DEATHS DIDN'T OCCUR! WE'D LIKE YOU TO BE A REGULAR COLUMNIST!

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

SIGH



Send us a letter.
letters@see.greatwest.ca

WELTSCHMERZ | Disputing the Benefits





t6e

Family and friends watch as the Atoms Division St. Albert Hawks celebrate their gold-medal win during Minor Hockey Week.

FIRST PERSON • EDMONTON STORIES • BY WIL KYNCL | 711 words

{The Last Days of TELUS-D}

WHAT A LONG STRANGE TRIP IT WAS

The guy swore it was Purple Micro-dot, double-dipped.

I shrugged and bought four tabs for Tony and me. At five bucks each and a ten-hour trip, nothing beat LSD for cost-effective, mind-altering recreation in 1996. That weekend, I unwrapped my tabs to find only blank, poorly torn violet blotter paper: no cartoon characters, no religious symbols, no dot. What the hell?

Tony gamely popped his pair of tabs under his tongue and I followed suit. I normally toked up into an acid trip, and down from it into sleep, but my baggie boasted only stems and seeds. Tony never had any of his own.

We smoked and watched *Fargo* on bootlegged VHS in my little apartment off Whyte. Such was the craft of the Coens that I couldn't tell that

the LSD was taking effect until I realized that I had no idea what was going on. Steve Buscemi's eyes were fascinating. That was when my brand new work pager went off for the first time.

That Friday evening, on the rising cusp of an acid trip, I reached the answering machine for a lawn care company and left a polite message that someone had called me from their number. I hung up and, five minutes later, I was paged again. Annoyed but still polite, I left another message. I was paged again five minutes later. I left a litany of abuse against the inane prank, was paged again five minutes later. I decided to ignore it amidst my rising paranoia. I needed to get out of the apartment.

Our ambling feet took us down-

town. We snorted with laughter at the ridiculous thoughts we might have shared and bizarre conduct we possibly observed. Tripping out of our minds, we wandered through the city's abandoned core. Jasper Avenue was thronged with cars cruising back and forth, but little else was open. My pager went off every 20 minutes or so, but I continued to ignore it. It never occurred to me to turn it off. I imagined pissed-off horticulturalists eager to pay back the anatomically

nate purple and green against a stark white background peered out from every spot where I was accustomed to seeing the old orange and black. I grew more and more unsettled until we came to the flag park.

Next to McAuley Plaza was a forest of flagpoles topped with variously coloured flags. It was a terrific place to eat lunch, people watch, or drop acid and stare up at AGT Tower through the installation. That night, a crisp new TELUS flag snapped briskly at

an unpleasant, slippery texture as it slides into your lungs. The smell is atrocious and each coffin nail seems to last forever. Which isn't to say that we didn't smoke every Craven Men-thol in my pack.

When we finally hauled ourselves up for the long trudge home, I walked over and portentously, symbolically, unplugged the light. The area plunged into downtown's approximation of darkness. Tony told me that they would know someone

I IMAGINED PISSED-OFF HORTICULTURALISTS EAGER TO PAY BACK THE ANATOMICALLY IMPRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS I HAD MADE.

impractical suggestions I had made on their office answering machine. In the middle of some outstanding tracers, I called a friendly TELUS operator to complain. He told me about the auto-dial alert set up on the answering machine and asked if the pager number was new. I felt a little embarrassed, but not enough to call back and apologize.

TELUS dogged our steps after that. The night before, they had swapped out all of the Ed Tel signs. Effemi-

the top of each flagpole. We were offended to the core of our beings. We slipped through a gap in the fence around an empty brick shell that would later be renovated into the Union Bank Inn. We climbed to the second floor, where a single industrial floodlight shone quietly.

We smoked and watched the traffic on Jasper through a huge hole in the exposed brick. Each half-finished cigarette was pitched away in disgust. During a trip, smoke gains

was here. I shrugged. It was the end of an era, and I was commemorating it with my best friend.

Edmonton's acid dried up for years after that and now I don't feel quite the same temptation to indulge. But I still remember the long, strange trip I took with my buddy, TELUS, and LSD.

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